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Payne calls for investigation of Newark school takeover

TRENTON — Assemblyman William Payne urged the U.S. Attorney for New Jersey to convene a federal Grand Jury investigation of the state's takeover of the Newark school system and a corresponding \$73 million budget deficit that has arisen under state control.

In a letter to U.S. Attorney Robert J. Cleary, Payne (D-Newark) requested the investigation target the state Department of Education and determine if criminal negligence contributed to the state's squalid operating record in the Newark schools system.

"The state's failures transcend simple carelessness and incompetence," Payne, a member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, wrote in his letter to Cleary.

Payne said he decided to seek the federal investigation for two reasons: federal money is used to help run various programs in the state's school districts and a federal probe would provide a strong measure of independence that could not be assured in a state-run investigation.

"The notion that the state education bureaucracy and the state Attorney General could conduct such a probe stretches the bounds of credibility," said Payne. "A state investigation would be tantamount to the fox guarding the chicken coop."

Payne originally floated the idea of a federal probe last week when the Star-Ledger of Newark revealed the reported deficit in the state's school takeover operating budget had ballooned by an additional \$15 million, from \$58 million to \$73 million.

He said the budget bungle "borders on criminality" and he suggested that the state DOE's incompetence and possible malfeasance would best be examined by federal authorities.

Payne said he hopes other legislators — irrespective of their political party or their geographic representation — would join him in seeking a federal probe of how the city's school budget sprung a gaping budget hole while under state control. Payne noted that the state took over the Newark system five years ago.

"Everybody should be concerned with what is going on with the Newark takeover situation," said Payne. "There is a disturbing lack of accountability for a massive amount of public funds. All of New Jersey has a stake in rooting out the truth in this fiscal debacle and seeing to it that this sort of breakdown does not happen again."

See TAKEOVER, page A8

2000 Gala

A reunion for New Jersey's most influential



Rev. Reginald Jackson and Rev. Willie Simmons — Fred Hafer, chairman, president and CEO of GPU



Richard Zahle, President of Schering Laboratories with Jan Johnson, President and Publisher of City News Publishing Group

Al Koeppe, President and COO of PSE&G

This event, the finale of what has become a highly respected and reserved date on many people's calendar was born five years ago as the branch of City News' President Jan Johnson. The purpose of the event has been to honor residents from across the state who have upheld the vibrant efforts and relentless mission of the publishers — to serve and uplift the black community.

Those recognized for their good deeds this year, along with Sen. Lautenberg were, Secretary of State Rev. DeForest "Buster" Soaries, Jr., Rev. David Jefferson of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark; GPU, Inc. Chairman, President and CEO Fred. D. Hafer; and Rev. Reginald Jackson, executive director of the Black Minister's Council.

The buzzing sound of people from the business, religious, political, education, and community fronts gathered in conversation, making acquaintances, and Dorismond's sealed juvenile record.

"You all have got to vote!" shouted Marie Dorismond, Dorismond's sister. "All of this will mean nothing if you don't vote. One vote will make one big difference. I'm tired of crying for black brothers."

There was no mention by speakers at the rally that if Giuliani loses the Senate race in November, his Democratic opponent — first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton — would remain mayor until 2001.

The protesters also voiced anger toward the NYPD, but their focus was Giuliani, and many signs depicted the mayor as the devil or Adolf Hitler. The signs were cheered by about a hundred onlookers as the marchers came off the Brooklyn Bridge into Manhattan.

"Giuliani violates human rights," "Giuliani, the new Hitler," and "Stop and frisk Giuliani, book him up for racism!" were some of the signs.

Giuliani's office did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment on the signs, but at his daily press

Nonprofits benefit from Prudential's \$20 million

by Gilda Rogers

For the 200 or so non-profit organization representatives that gathered at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on April 24, what they heard was music to their ears and what each saw was a great opportunity to continue their valiant efforts in helping to reshape Newark and its residents.

Prudential Insurance Company, announced in commemoration of its 125th Anniversary a \$20 million dollar fund that will help the city's non-profit sector to grow, maintain, and sustain the spirit in which the organization was founded.

"It was my idea," said Gabriella Morris, president of The Prudential Foundation, which was established in 1977 to foster healthy communities with an emphasis on funding "Ready to Learn; Ready to Work; and Ready to Live." To date the foundation has contributed \$250 million to non-profits and community groups nationwide.

Morris continued, "I thought what can we do for Newark. The usual request received was 'We need for capital. It was supported by our chairman and our board approved it.'"

The non-profits vying for a grant must submit The Prudential Foundation Anniversary Fund Application, which needed to have been postmarked by April 28, along with a two to three-page Letter of Intent. The

final decision will be announced in September 2000.

However, in the meantime potential grantees under the guidance of Nonprofits Finance Fund will be required to engage in technical assistance workshops designed by NFF to address a broad range of facilities-related issues and assist in the non-profit's development and long-term capitalization.

In conjunction with Prudential, NFF will give a level of advice and technically assist each organization in its need to achieve its goals," said NFF's New Jersey and Philadelphia Director, Nancy Burd.

Organizations like "Newark Do Something" which was in attendance at this historic event can better serve the youth that participate in its program, if afforded an allotment from the fund.

"We're looking for a long-term partnership with the Coach Program," said Media Butler executive director of the Newark chapter of "Do Something," a national organization founded by Andrew Shue, who is a native of New Jersey. "We would like to know that program to keep it going." This program fosters a mentoring relationship with a student and an upstanding person in the community. Eighty-two schools recently adopted the program, which make up the public school system at the behest of Superintendent of Schools Marion Bolden.

Thousands march for right to protest in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Vowing to make sure Mayor Rudolph Giuliani does not win his bid for the U.S. Senate, more than 2,000 protesters marched several miles, from Brooklyn to City Hall, shouting that the mayor has mishandled several fatal police shootings of unarmed men. They also called for him to resign.

"Amadou Diallo! Patrick Dorismond! Malcolm Ferguson!" shouted the mostly Haitian American crowd on Thursday. "Giuliani must go!"

Diallo was fatally shot last year by four white police officers who were acquitted of murder charges earlier this year. Dorismond was fatally shot outside a Manhattan bar, and Ferguson was killed during an undercover drug raid, both in March.

In each case, Giuliani has vociferously defended the police. He sometimes sought to shift blame for the shootings to the Redham and raised the ire of many people by releasing Dorismond's sealed juvenile record.

"You all have got to vote!" shouted Marie Dorismond, Dorismond's sister. "All of this will mean nothing if you don't vote. One vote will make one big difference. I'm tired of crying for black brothers."

There was no mention by speakers at the rally that if Giuliani loses the Senate race in November, his Democratic opponent — first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton — would remain mayor until 2001.

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Giuliani's office did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment on the signs, but at his daily press

availability held before the marchers left Brooklyn, he mentioned the protesters briefly.

"People have a right to protest. I really have no problem with that at all as long as they do it peacefully," he said. "If they don't do it peacefully, then they also have to be ready to be arrested."

The march and subsequent rally outside City Hall were peaceful and Dorismond's father, Andre, begged the large crowd to remain calm. Following his son's funeral last month, a single broke out among the mourners and police, with injuries on both sides.

"Keep the pressure on, keep the pressure on," said Dorismond, a Haitian immigrant. "No violence, please. No violence."

Dorismond's mother, named Marie like her daughter, shouted passionately in Creole: "They killed my son but I didn't lose the battle."

The crowd cheered loudest for Abner Louima, the Haitian immigrant tortured by a police officer in the bathroom of a Brooklyn stationhouse in 1997. The soft-spoken Louima talked about how black people are viewed by police.

"We are tired of being portrayed as drug dealers, we are tired of being portrayed as criminals," Louima said. "We want to be judged for our actions, not our skin color."

Louima, who was flanked by a police detective as he stood on the dais, was then led through the crowd into a car by police, who had accompanied him to the rally. Louima has been under police protection since his attack.

Missing from the rally was one of its organizers, the Rev. Al Sharpton, who had a prior speaking engagement in Philadelphia. Sharpton and his National Action Network held several rallies this week protesting police brutality, culminating in Thursday's march and rally. Several people, including Sharpton, were arrested at these rallies after staging acts of civil disobedience, such as blocking entrances to buildings.

Misdiagnosis for women and blacks

by Jeff Dorn

(AP) — Emergency rooms miss the signs of a heart attack about 2 percent of patients, but much more often in blacks and young or middle-aged women, a study finds.

About 1.7 million patients are admitted to U.S. hospitals each year with heart attacks or the warning chest pains known as unstable angina. The study finds that emergency rooms incorrectly send home about 26,000 other patients each year with the same conditions.

"The good news is it's only 2 percent. The bad news is that's 26,000 patients," said Dr. Harry Selker, a researcher at New England Medical Center in Boston.

The study, published today in The New England Journal of Medicine, tracked 10,689

patients at 10 hospitals in the East and Midwest. It was the largest study ever to check accuracy of diagnoses on emergency room heart patients.

The Medical College of Wisconsin provided about 10 percent of the patients in the study.

In the study, doctors missed unstable angina in just 2.3 percent of patients and heart attacks in 2.1 percent. However, the mistake rates for the combined problems ranged widely among the hospitals: from 0 to 11 percent.

The study found wrong diagnoses for 4.3 percent of blacks and 7 percent of women younger than 55.

Researchers said the rate is important to know, because hospitals are under such financial pressure to curtail unnecessary admissions. Patients wrongly

sent home with acute heart problems are at much higher risk of death.

Sulzer said hospitals and insurers should routinely monitor such rates at specific hospitals, especially in this cost-cutting environment.

His research colleague, Dr. J. Hector Pope, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, said emergency room doctors should take careful medical histories, examine patients thoroughly, and make smart use of the testing methods.

Researchers gave several possible explanations for why more women and blacks are missed. Other research suggests that the signature symptom of a heart attack, the severe chest pain, is absent more often in women than men. The study team also said its own earlier research suggested that black

patients are younger overall and more often are women.

"We need to be particularly aware of the needs of women and minorities, who may have non-traditional heart attack warning signs, such as shortness of breath or nausea," said Dr. Rose Marie Robertson, president-elect of the American Heart Association.

But the study researchers also said they cannot rule out sexism and racism.

Brenda Romney, policy director at the National Black Women's Health Project in Washington, D.C., largely blamed personal and institutional discrimination.

"It's embedded in our society," she said. "Your race and your sex in this society does have an impact on how you enter the health system and what kind of care you get."

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

NUTLEY - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Parks & Recreation center at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

MAHWAH - Ramapo College hosts a job fair at noon. For further information, call (201) 684-7443.

MONTCLAIR - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Montclair Municipal Building at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

MONMOUTH - The County Park System is holding a sculpture class. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

MONMOUTH - The County Park System plans college classes through June 8th. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

NEWARK - The Garden State Ballet School holds its summer scholarship tryouts. For further information, call (973) 622-1033.

NEWARK - The Jersey Cares organization hosts a day of volunteering and community service. For further information, call (973) 644-4952.

WEST ORANGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Town Hall at 9 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

MONDAY, MAY 8

MADISON - St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center holds its statewide Pet Food Drive. For further information, call (908) 719-7798 or (973) 377-7094.

EAST ORANGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at City Hall at 2 p.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

NEWARK - The Newark Public Library is holding an information session on literacy tutoring, at 6 p.m. For further information, call (973) 623-4001.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

CALDWELL - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Town Hall at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

4915.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

TRENTON - The War Memorial Theater hosts "Kids in Concert," at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 624-1815 ext. 22.

MONTCLAIR - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Municipal Building at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

MONTCLAIR - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Municipal Building at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

ASBURY PARK - World AI premiers at the Paramount Theatre. For further information, call (732) 775-2100.

WESTFIELD - The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will hold its annual fundraiser/rummage sale at 10 a.m. For further information, call (908) 233-8553.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK - The Paramount Theater hosts a gospel concert. For further information, call (732) 775-2100.

PLAINFIELD - New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District holds a candidates' forum at 2 p.m. For further information, call (908) 755-5846.

MONDAY, MAY 15

LIVINGSTON - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Town Hall at 2 p.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

TUESDAY, MAY 16

WEST ORANGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Town Hall at 1:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

MAPLEWOOD - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Town Hall at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

MONTCLAIR - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the municipal building at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week in Plainfield



Left to right—Mayor Al McWilliams of Plainfield, N.J. presents a proclamation to Tam Cannon, Community Development Specialist with the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network, declaring April 16-22 National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week in Plainfield, N.J.

ADA honors Exxon Mobil for diabetes prevention efforts



FAIRFAX, VA, April 10, 2000 - The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recently honored Exxon Mobil Corporation for its commitment to diabetes education and prevention efforts in the minority community. ExxonMobil was one of three companies recognized at the ADA's fifth annual Rainbow Gala held earlier this month. The Rainbow Gala raises funds to support the ADA's statewide early detection and prevention activities for minority communities.

New Jersey SHARES honors local social service agencies at forum



HIGHTSTOWN, N.J. - Denise Carroll (left) of Newark Emergency Services for Families and Tina Zazzarino of Salvation Army-Montclair Citadel receive Certificates of Appreciation from Gary Gamble, GPU Energy representative for NJ SHARES (center), at the recent NJ SHARES Agency Forum. NJ SHARES is a statewide energy fund designed to assist working-class households with a one-time assistance grant for their utility bills. Last year NJ SHARES agencies distributed nearly \$1.1 million to those in need. Thirty-eight local social service agencies were honored by NJ SHARES for their efforts.

PWC tech assistance workshop helps WBEs and MBEs expand



New York - "Women-owned enterprises is the fastest-growing business group. As major corporations downsize, we need to ensure that small businesses have the opportunity to expand," said Ernest Williams, manager of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) certification, an outreach arm of NJ Transit. He was speaking at a recent Technical Assistance Workshop hosted by Professional Women in Construction (PWC) at the Yale Club in New York City. "We want to help WBEs and MBEs (minority business enterprises) maximize their opportunities through certification," said Williams.

Black History Moments



Gordon A. Parks, Sr. (1912 -)

Gordon A. Parks, Sr. became the first black photo journalist on the staff of *Life* magazine. He began his career in photography in 1937 with a camera purchased in a pawn shop. In 1941 he was the first black to receive a Rosenwald Fellowship for photography.

Parks was named the Magazine Photographer of the Year in 1961. A gifted film director, he was the first black to direct movies for a major studio. Parks directed the feature films "Shaft," "Sounder," and "Cotton Comes to Harlem." He also gained fame for his autobiographical books, "A Choice of Weapons," and "The Learning Tree."

Black Quotes

to live by...

"If you have no confidence in self you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence you have won even before you have started."



Marcus Garvey
1867 - 1940

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

FORMER BLACK MILITANT RETURNED TO GEORGIA TO FACE MURDER CHARGES

ATLANTA (AP) — Former militant James Earl Ray is back in Georgia to face charges in the slaying of a Fulton County sheriff's deputy. Al-Amin was taken by helicopter from Montgomery, Ala., to the Cobb County Jail in Marietta recently as police drove a decoy motorcade to Georgia for security reasons.

Al-Amin, 56, ended his fight to avoid being returned to Georgia just before a judge was to rule on the issue at a hearing.

Defense attorney J.L. Chestnut said Al-Amin, known in the 1960s as H. Rap Brown, now feels "relatively safe going back to Georgia."

Al-Amin is charged in the March 16 shooting that killed Atlanta deputy Ricky Kinchen and wounded deputy Adrian English. Authorities have said the deputies were trying to serve Al-Amin with an arrest warrant at his Atlanta grocery when gunfire erupted.

Al-Amin was captured four days later in the town of White Hall in rural Lowndes County, west of Montgomery. After he was indicted in Georgia, Al-Amin had vowed an aggressive fight against being returned to Atlanta.

Chestnut said Al-Amin's case had evoked more emotion than that of Timothy McVeigh, convicted of bombing the federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

This sort of hysteria did not surround Tim McVeigh, Chestnut said after the hearing. "I have never understood that sort of foolishness... I was not about to rush him back."

But he said matters in Georgia "fell into place" and a joint decision was made during a recess at the extradition hearing to return without further litigation. Chestnut told Montgomery County Circuit Judge Charles Price that Al-Amin was ready to return to Georgia, "where this real fight is."

"We are now in a better position to judge Atlanta," he said. "Jail is not a man who makes up his mind about anything in haste."

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Black mayors name honorees in Dallas



L to r: Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell, East Orange Mayor Bob Bowser and Newark Mayor Sharpe James whom are members of the National Conference of Black Mayors. File photo

Atlanta, GA, April 3 — The National Conference of Black Mayors Inc.'s (NCBM) 26th Annual Conference in Dallas, TX, featured a stellar lineup of special guests and honorees. The convention held April 26-30, anchored at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel, boasted a roster of prominent players from every segment of society, including politics, religion, business and sports.

U.S. Surgeon General Davidatcher set the tone for the conference as keynote speaker for the Plenary Session on Thursday, April 27, 9:00 am-10:30 am. Addressing the conference theme — "Leadership for a New Century."

Satcher opened the conference agenda and officially launched Youth Day, focusing on teenage use of seatbelts and other health issues impacting African Americans. That morning, Satcher received the Pannie Lou Hammer Freedom Award. Appointed Surgeon General by President Clinton in February 1988, Satcher is only the second person in history to simultaneously hold the position of Assistant Secretary of Health as well.

The Honorable Rodney E. Slater, Secretary of the U.S.

Department of Transportation, received a President's Award and addressed the group on Friday, April 28. Slater is joined by Craig Lentzsch, President and Chief Executive Officer of Greyhound Lines, Inc., and former NBA star Isiah Thomas, now a businessman and owner of Isiah Investments, LLC, in receiving the prestigious President's Award.

The organization's highest honor, the Tribute to a Black American award, was given this year to Congressman Charles Rangel, serving his fifteenth term as Representative from the 15th Congressional District. Other special guests include popular evangelist Bishop T.D. Jakes, founder of the Potter's House ministries of Dallas, who brought the message to the Mayors' Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 29th.

The convention was featured on the popular syndicated radio program The Tom Joyner Morning Show, which was broadcast live from the Wyndham Anatole on Friday, April 28. Hosted by Dallas Mayor Ronald Kirk, the conference drew more than 250 mayors from cities and towns across America.

Boy brain dead, six wounded in DC zoo shooting

WASHINGTON (AP) — One boy is brain dead and six other young people are recovering from gunshot wounds suffered during a possibly gang-related shooting at the National Zoo, police said.

The popular tourist attraction was closed today as police continued their investigation.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is offering a \$25,000 reward.

This type of random violence is repulsive and it must not be allowed to go unpunished," NAACP President Kweisi Mfume told The Associated Press today.

He added that the civil rights organization recently "decided to take a more proactive stance on incidents like this."

Police said they were investigating whether the shootings were gang related and sought at least one teen-age gunman who fired a handgun into groups of youths after a confrontation escalated to bottle throwing and then shots.

A police source who asked not to be identified by name said early today there is no evidence that more than one shooter was involved, that investigators believe know his identity and hope to make an arrest today.

The shooting victims ranged in age from 11 to 16 and were attending a century-old post-Easter gathering at the zoo celebrating black families.

Police said a seventh person, a teen-ager, showed up at a hospital overnight for treatment of a gunshot wound to the thumb that he said was suffered during the zoo shooting.

A high-ranking police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a boy, either 11 or 12 years old, was shot in the head and declared brain dead at a hospital. The boy was being kept alive by machines to allow his family to donate his organs, the official said.

Officials at Children's Hospital National Medical Center, where the boy was being treated, would say only that the boy remained in very critical condition.

A 12-year-old girl was in serious condition with a wound to the pelvis, a 14-year-old boy was in serious condition with a leg wound, and three other youths were hospitalized with less serious injuries, according to officials at the hospitals where they were treated.

Hours later, police still circled the zoo in helicopters. "We are looking into the possibility

that it is gang-related, but we are not certain," Police Chief Charles Ramsey said.

The 111-year-old zoo, a unit of the Smithsonian Institution, is one of the most visited sites in Washington, drawing 3 million local residents and tourists each year. Nestled on 163 acres in one of Washington's wealthiest neighborhoods, it has seldom experienced violence and was better known for the rare Chinese pandas it housed for over two decades.

The gunfire broke out shortly after 6 p.m. EDT in broad daylight and stunned visitors.

I am not bringing them back. These are my grandkids. It is not safe," said Sandra Edwards, who was visiting the zoo with her grandchildren when she heard the shots and saw youths fighting.

Edwards said she thought some of the teen-agers appeared to be gang members, because they were matching clothing. For instance, she said one group of teens all wore blue bandanas.

In addition to the gunshot wounds, a seventh victim in the vicinity of the melee suffered a seizure and a pregnant woman was taken to the hospital after experiencing abdominal pain.

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White supremacists to march in Morristown

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (AP) — A white supremacist group plans to march at the county courthouse on July 4 to protest affirmative action and the state's firing of former State Police Superintendent Carl A. Williams over racial remarks he made.

Local political leaders vowed to stop the Nationalist Movement, based in Learned, Miss., from coming here.

They'll march in Morristown over my dead body'

They'll march in Morristown over my dead body," Council President Timothy Jackson told The Daily Record of Pepsipany. "Either we take a stand against

people like this now or they will lock you up 10 years from now."

The organization's leader, Rutgers University graduate Richard Barrett, has held similar rallies in Los Angeles, Atlanta and Boston.

In addition to the march, New Jersey state Gov. Christie Whitman fired Williams on Feb. 28, 1999. The superintendent's dismissal followed a published report of an interview in which Williams linked minority groups to drug trafficking.

Barrett said he chose Morristown for the rally because of the town's history of hosting George Washington and the Continental Army for two winters during the Revolutionary War.

Barrett won't disclose his group's size, saying only that it has members in 35 states. Critics have said he is a one-man operation who runs the group out of his home south of Jackson, Miss.

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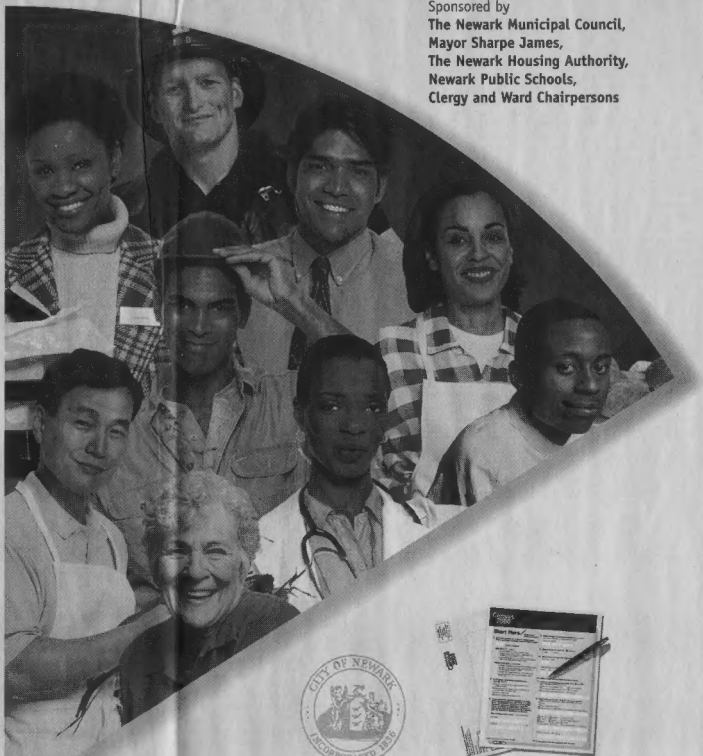
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- Tax Relief • Meals on Wheels
- HIV/AIDS and Homeless Assistance

These are some of the services Newark will lose if every man, woman and child is not counted in the US Census 2000. So make sure you take a few minutes to fill out and mail back the census form because the health and prosperity of our community depends on it. If you haven't mailed back your form by April 19th, a census taker will be visiting you soon to help you fill out and collect the form.

Remember that the information you submit is not shared by any government agency and is totally confidential.

Newark Census 2000 Hot Line: (973) 733-5875



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This is Newark's Future.
Fill It Out. Send It Back.

People Get Ready

All we need to do is look around our community and we have these leaders that seem to think we do not exist.

I've been in the company of brothers and sisters, who too many times have raised the question - when will the next Malcolm, Martin or Jesse come along? You probably live right next door to or around the corner and yet the street from the next Malcolm, Martin, or Jesse.

These people exist in our communities. Seemingly, they simply have not risen in prominence. This too may be due to a lack of talent that goes untapped in our communities. These people are purists at heart performing purely for the love of the art, through song, spoken word or by freedom of expression - via fine art.

So, some of the efforts and work of community activists from various communities might go unnoticed. And that's ironic because they are the drum majors. These community leaders give endless of their time day-in and day-out for a better quality of life. The artist, usually tells us the truth through a different form. We have to support their efforts, like a community should.

There's a very Bohemian and grassroots movement happening again. Coffeehouses, poetry cafes, lecture halls, and people's living rooms deemed salons in the literary world are buzzing with fresh new energy and engaging ideas. Although some may not have caught on to the wave, to all of you that frequent these community spots - you know what I'm talking about.

A new Nationalism is taken place across the nation. We're hearing a firm stance on the boycott of South Carolina. People are banding together and marching on the streets. There is a patriotic nature of some police officers. We are spiritually reconnecting to our African ancestors, and we are calling on all those to join the cause.

"People get ready there's a train coming. You don't need no baggage - just get on board!"

Imprisoned parents: Communicating with our children

By Stephen Brathwaite

Although I'm compelled to linger in such unnatural and languish condition of prison life, which is ultimately aimed towards eroding the family structure, thus oversteering this harsh realization, I vowed not to succumb to this impeding malicious process.

As a parent prisoner and a spouse, maintaining communication with my family is an essential component in my overall struggle for liberation. As a parent prisoner, I've relinquished my rights to be a responsible parent. No matter where or what situation a parent finds themselves in, our children must be reached and made to understand that they have not been abandoned by the parent. Thus breaking the intergenerational cycle of our children perpetuating such a malignant epidemic.

Parent prisoners must remain optimistic and sensitive when reaching out to their children.

Children will be children and through relentless writing whether you receive a response or not, a bond must be established, so the parent is obligated to continue his/her efforts to break the grips of silence between them and the children.

This is why it is also important that we communicate with other family members, so they may assist us in establishing a bond between the parent and child. A good friend could be pivotal at this stage as well. It's imperative as a parent prisoner, that we utilize all resources that are available and necessary to establish a relationship with the children.

Nevertheless, we can no longer depend solely upon schools, television, Grandparents or other family members

and friends, etc. to do the job of the parent. It's essential that the children know and bond with the parent to give the children substance to their life and a sense of belonging which will give them identity. Writing daily, calling whenever possible and some visitations will build some familiarity and have psychological effects on the children's mind where they become more interested and start depending and looking forward to your communication.

A child needs love and attention from both parents. It is their birth right, it is the first law of nature "Know Thy Self". How can this be accomplished if they don't know first who they came? There must not be a void of such nature in the children's life.

Communication is the key element in all relationships. It's of paramount importance that we communicate with our children because they are the conscious of the world. The future lies in their hands and we appear upon them, because it is them who possess the potential to change the world and they must feel as though they can change the world. But for that to understand this, they must be cultivated. It is our responsibility as parents to communicate with the children and can develop this height of consciousness. Yes, maintaining ties with our family requires a lot of work. However, we must struggle and accept responsibility for our children, our future.

The most powerful tool we can give our children is KNOWLEDGE OF SELF and if we have that, we can begin to BEGIN to expand our intellect by exercising our minds, reading, writing and studying everyday to further ourselves which in turn will further our children's FUTURE.

Commentary

Many Black Politicians in Deep Trouble

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

NAACP leaders turned the tepid issue of the Confederate flag fluttering over the South Carolina statehouse into a life and death battle against racism. Now black politicians in the state have gone them one better and are waging moral combat against a plan by Gov. Carroll A. Calhoun, governor Jim Hodges, to require elementary school students to say "sir" and "ma'am" when addressing teachers and school employees.

Black politicians see racism and sexism and railed that this is nothing but a sneaky way of forcing blacks to bow and scrape for white folks again. Hodges's plan is a sideshow gesture that does nothing to solve the deplorable drop out rates and miserably low test scores of black students in South Carolina's public schools. But the black lawmakers didn't attack Hodges's worthless idea because it doesn't improve the state's abominably underfunded and underserved schools. That would smatch medals and public attention and send the troops surging to the barricades.

The courtesy title squabble is yet another troubling sign of the penchant of many black politicians to grab at shiny, showy issues rather than pounding on the crucial problems of poverty, violence, poor education, the disastrous disparities in the criminal justice system and the gut of social programs that have taken a massive toll on poor and working class blacks.

Their political ineffectiveness in attacking these issues has caused them to freeze in state and national politics. In the past two years they have lost mayorships to whites in majority black cities of Baltimore and Oakland. The Senate majority of black legislators has plummeted from 12 to 6 in the California legislature since 1994. They have lost seats on dozens of local and municipal offices

nationwide. The Congressional Black Caucus has been unable to get any substantial legislation through Congress. When the Republican-controlled Congress eliminated key committees such as the Post Office and Civil Service and the District of Columbia Committees, CBC members were displaced, and hundreds of community staff jobs were eliminated many of them held by blacks. Their blind subservience to Clinton's policies has rendered them little more than malleable foot soldiers for the Democratic Party.

Black politicians blame their political slide on voter apathy, alienation, inner city population drops, suburban integration, and displacement by Latinos and increasingly Asians who some claim have far more cohesion and political savvy than blacks. These factors have contributed to the evaporation in the number, power and influence of black elected officials.

But they are biggest culprits to blame for their slippage. Many black politicians make little or no effort to inform and involve the black public on vital legislation and political actions that directly impact on black communities. Their all-consumed obsession is to elect more black Democrats to office and making sure that those in office stay there.

Many black politicians are accustomed to the national media and are not used to the dish of power. They jealously hoard what they view as their sacred right to make all final decisions on proposing laws and supporting public policy.

Black politicians are also crippled by their near total dependence on the Democratic Party for patronage, support, and assor-

ed party favors. Few would dare break ranks with the party and attempt to pressure the Republican Party to take black issues seriously. Many Latino and Asian leaders and elected officials are not straight-jacketed by mind-numbing obedience to the Democrats. They have pushed the Democrats and Republicans to cease immigrant bashing, increased funding for bi-lingual education programs, championed Latino political representation and implementing outreach programs to Latino voters.

They are leaving blacks in the political dust. The downward shift in black politics should be a wake-up call for black elected officials that quitted appeals for black solidarity and voter registration campaigns and buses into black neighborhoods are not going to make blacks dash to the polls to vote for politicians they feel have, or will, fail them. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a black think tank, found that the frustration and disgust of many black voters with black politicians has soared so high that less than 20 percent of eligible black voters bothered to cast a ballot in many municipal and statewide elections in 1998.

The cruel truth is that with a pivotal presidential election only months away, the power and influence of black politicians has badly eroded. And they only make things worse by waging systematic voter intimidation such as flags and voter intimidation teachers while refusing to craft an agenda that confronts the dire problems of the poor and working class. This is the only way to guarantee that the Democrats will continue to take them for granted, the Republicans will continue to ignore them, and more and more black voters will turn their backs on them.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of the forthcoming *The Disappearance of Black Leadership*, email: hutch344@aol.com.

Sharpton The New Willie Horton

By Ron Walters

You remember Willie Horton? He was a black prisoner in Massachusetts who was let out on work release one weekend and who sexually assaulted and killed a woman.

Al Gore, running for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988, brought this fact out during the public debate with Michael Dukakis, the eventual winner that year. Then, the Republican strategist Lee Atwater went on to use the name of George Bush, Sr. to use in the general election through a video commercial which racialized the issue, such as "I got the specter of the 'bad black' who would kill if shown any leniency, fueled not only the election of George Bush, Sr. but also helped to lay the groundwork for a series of draconian criminal justice laws that were later upheld under the leadership of President William Jefferson Clinton.

This year, Republicans appear to have their own version of Willie Horton in the person of the Rev. Al Sharpton. Candidates for the presidential nomination on the Democratic ticket, such as Al Gore, Bill Bradley, and Senate candidate Hillary Clinton, have all gone to visit with Rev. Al Sharpton.

Because he polled over 600,000 votes in the 1996 Senate campaign in the State of New York, Sharpton has become a credibility and more than an

aura of just a demonstrator, but catapulted him to the position of a leader who has become a constituency and who may be able to leverage it in favor of one candidate or another.

New York's chairman of the Republican Party, has led the campaign against Sharpton in the strongest terms by calling him "bago" and an "anti-Semite." This refers to Sharpton's role in street demonstrations in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, a Jewish neighborhood in New York where anti-semites were peevish to be involved in the death of a young black boy. More recently, he has taken up the high profile fight to secure justice for the family of Amadou Diallo, the African immigrant who was killed by out of control New York City Police officers. And since many of the causes that he has championed have involved the police, he has been perceived as police-baiter, stemming initially from Sharpton's allegation that the young woman, Tawana Brawley, was abducted by a white policeman six years ago.

Although he was sued by that policeman and recently found guilty of defaming by the state New York court, there are still those who believe Brawley's story, even though it has been widely cast as a hoax.

Regardless of the outcome of these cases, there is a sense in which Rev. Al Sharpton has become a national champion of those who must confront the

system in order to secure justice at a time when other leaders have been perceived as a martyr. In doing so, he has brought the National Action Network and his own voice into national prominence as he is featured now on national television talk shows and sought as a speaker and champion of causes far from New York City.

For instance, he traveled to Michigan to become involved in a demonstration against a Wayne County court that would try a 12-year-old black male an adult, to California to protest the shooting to death of an unarmed black woman by officers of the Los Angeles Police Department. And in another high profile case, he is not incidentally, suing Republican party chair, Jim Nicholson for Defamation of Character.

So, in one sense, Rev. Sharpton, having taken the stage and begun to carve a martyr for himself that resembles that of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., he has also become far more for the masses than a politician. Speaking of Rev. Jackson, however, it should also be remembered that he has suffered this same kind of martyrdom in conditions which found him running for President in 1984. He was called a bigot and an anti-Semite and his work hard had to dispel a hard untruth, not only with proof of his past life, but of his subsequent works of inclusion and coalition.

But why would you suppose

there is this syndrome? I thought a lot about this in the midst of the storm, as a close assistant to Rev. Jackson. I thought that he was being vilified, as Rev. Sharpton is today, because America has always been uncomfortable with the notion that blacks might acquire real power, especially blacks who cannot be trusted to follow the white man's lead. This is why always had the opportunity to exercise, sometimes, considerable power, as long as they use it to help both the system and those who control it.

Sharpton himself said that, "they're doing more like Jesse Jackson than Willie Horton" was a criminal. I'm a civil rights leader "Civil Rights leaders have challenged the system on behalf of the poor and the oppressed as well as a weapon the ability to make the comfortable, uncomfortable, to disturb the peace."

In this sense, the power of charismatic leaders has always been more of a threat because of their ability to galvanize the masses. J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, was once told that the power of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to mobilize the masses on behalf of justice was a threat to the system. Their reputations by vilification and dirty-tricks campaigns and probably was involved in the death of them both.

So, the campaign is on to discredit Rev. Al Sharpton because he has taken the side of the people. Let us watch his back.

Uncovering Cider House lies

By Robert A. George

I rarely get agitated at works of art. But *The Cider House Rules* movie is a notable exception. Its wretchedness was only enhanced by author John Irving's self-serving speech accepting the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay at the recent Academy Awards. That there hasn't been more anger speaks to the selectivity of political outrage.

In the movie, Homer Wells (Tobey Maguire) has been raised in an orphanage under the care of Dr. Wilbur Larch (Michael Caine). Larch is a father-figure to Wells, caring guardian to the couple dozen orphans and, on top, an ether-addicted abortionist. Larch teaches Wells everything he knows, though the pupil demurs at aborting babies. Larch asks, "How can you not help these women when you know how? Every life has to be of some use." The irony of that particular statement coming from someone performing illegal abortions is lost on the doctor but not on Homer.

Homer talks meaningfully of the need for adults to have personal responsibility until Wally, a pilot, and Candy, his girlfriend, arrive for an abortion. Homer leaves with the couple and becomes an apple-picker at Wally's farm. As Wally bends off

to the war, Homer begins an affair with Candy and befriends several black migrant workers. Upon learning the awful secret among the workers' young Rose (Frances Eryx), Homer is sexually impregnated by her father (Derek Lindo).

Homer undergoes a transformation and is seduced by the Cider House disguises itself as a film about a young man "finding" himself. But it stacks the deck against and, in the end of the film, having literally journeyed through a heart of darkness, the viewer is invited, if not manipulated, into adopting Larch's view. The deck is as stacked against the workers as it is against Homer. Illegality, incest, abortion, and parricide are the demons visited upon these workers. In essence, the workers are depicted as versions of the "orphans" Larch described earlier. They have no choices, they have no options.

After the abortion, Larch states, "These rules ain't made for us, we're the ones who are supposed to make our own rules. And we do every single day." The words provide the central justification for the movie's ultimate amorality, but they just as

well could summarize the views of Hollywood.

It's not fair to attack a movie solely on the political views of its creator. There are several good performances in this film. But

originality and honesty are legitimate criteria upon which to judge a film. The cliché is abundant in *Cider House Rules* and it is, in the final result, a manipulative, dishonest product.

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Business Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 11

NEWARK - Greater Newark Business Development Corporation hosts a seminar for small businesses at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (973) 242-4128.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

NEWARK - Newark International Airport presents its 2000 Aviation Career and Education Expo at 8:30 a.m. For additional information, call (973) 961-6265.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

EAST BRUNSWICK - The 52nd annual NJ Business Conference will take place at the Hilton Towers. For further information, call (973) 673-5795.

First-Time Home Buyers Seminar

MOUNTAINSIDE — As the competition for residential housing continues to rise, first-time homebuyers are feeling the pressure in the home buying market. According to industry professionals, planning and a good understanding of the home buying process are keys to succeeding in this active real estate market. In order to better prepare New Jersey residents for homeownership, The Homeownership New Seminar is coming to Union County on Saturday, May 6th. The Homeownership New Seminar is an event designed for First-Time Homebuyers and will be presented by American United partners for homeownership.

American United, the Mountainide based Mortgage Banking Corporation, has been conducting First-Time Homebuyers Seminars since 1995 throughout New Jersey and is now bringing its Seminar to Plainfield. "Our experience shows that individuals looking to buy their first home usually aren't aware of the complete home buying process or of special programs that are available to make their purchase easier," said Joseph Farella, Executive Vice President for American United. American United focuses on first-time home buying programs available today through its partnership with HUD and organizations such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The Homeownership New Seminar is an educational seminar focusing on The Advantages of Homeownership, Five Steps To Homeownership: Determining Home Affordability, Reduced Rate Financing Programs, No Money-Down Options, Home Renovation Government Loans and Grants, and Programs for Individuals With Past Credit Issues will also be discussed. Because of the Seminar's popularity reservations are required.

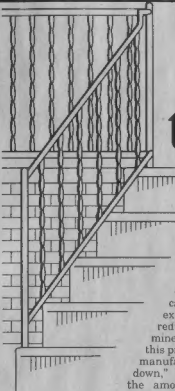
Individuals should contact American United at their Mountainide based headquarters, by calling 800-555-2035, to reserve seating and for a complete Seminar schedule.

Union County has many excellent opportunities for first-time homebuyers. In this competitive housing market, older homes offer great potential and affordability.

Although these homes may require some renovation, The Homeownership New Seminar will address renovation financing opportunities and grant programs available to remodel older homes. The Homeownership New Seminar gives potential buyers and existing owners a variety of options for purchasing and improving homes and is available to all New Jersey residents.

Today's new business: fax your business calendar to
CITY NEWS
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Step down to improved finances



WEST-FIELD, N.J.

Have you heard the television advertisement for a product that helps people gradually quit smoking? It uses the words "step down" over and over to indicate that a person's exposure to nicotine is reduced in pre-determined stages, while using this product. According to the manufacturer, "stepping down," by gradually reducing the amount of nicotine consumed, makes it easier to quit smoking than going "cold turkey" and trying to quit from "smoker" one day to "non-smoker" the next. In other words, the odds of successful behavioral change are greater when a person makes small, gradual changes than by making one large change all at once.

"Stepping down" can also be used as a method to generate ideas to reduce household spending. Just like the smoking cessation product described above, the principle is that people will be more successful and feel less deprived, if their spending is reduced in gradual stages as opposed to eliminating spending on an item completely.

To visualize the "step-down principle," imagine a staircase with four steps. On the top step is the most expensive way to purchase an item and on the floor below the bottom step is the least expensive purchasing

method.

Again, note that you're not completely eliminating the item. You're just trying to purchase it at lower cost to free up money to save or reduce debt.

To illustrate the "step-down principle," think about buying four pancakes for breakfast. The most expensive method (top step of the staircase) would be going to a "sit-down" restaurant like IHOP Denny's or Friendly's and paying about \$3.49, plus a tip. The next step down would be to buy the pancakes at a fast food outlet for around \$1.99. Go down another two steps on the staircase and you might pay 77 cents for frozen pancakes purchased at a supermarket and 26 cents for four pancakes prepared with a dry mix. At the "floor" of the staircase would be the cheapest method still: about 15 cents for a serving of pancakes prepared "from scratch" (i.e., dry ingredients).

Two advantages of the "step-down principle" are that it increases awareness of personal spending habits and offers a variety of options to make a purchase.

Obviously, other factors, like time availability, also need to be considered. One person might decide to prepare "from scratch" mixes on weekends when they have more time. Another might decide that stepping down from eating out at a restaurant to cooking from scratch (five whole steps) is not feasible. They might decide to buy frozen pancakes, a "step down" of two steps from a restaurant meal.

They still pocket considerable savings (\$2.77 in the above example), although it won't save them the most money.

The "step-down principle" also works well with other "discretionary" household expenses. For example, clothing. Steps of spending, from top to bottom, might include a department store, a discount store, factory outlets, a consignment store, and thrift shops/lea makets garage

sales.

"Stepping down" can also refer to the frequency or amount of a purchase as well as where it is made. For example, you may decide to eat out six times a month instead of twelve. You're not completely eliminating what is obviously a pleasurable activity. You're simply taking steps to contain the cost. Or you might "step down" by eliminating an appetizer, drink and/or dessert.

Many budgets fail because people feel resentful or deprived. Nobody likes to feel that they can't do something that they enjoy. If you're looking for ways to improve your finances without crimping your lifestyle, try "stepping down." You'll remain in control of your finances by choosing realistic steps. You'll also see quick results, which can serve as an incentive for additional changes.

This MONEY 2000 message is sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. MONEY 2000 is a program designed to increase the financial well being of New Jersey residents through increased savings and reduced household debt.

Citibank Receives SBA Award for Small Business Lending



Left to right: Bonnie Walsh, Stephen Huff, Stephen Liguori, Aubrey Rogers, Pamela Flaherty and Bert Haggerty. File photo

NEW YORK — For the fourth consecutive year, Citibank has been awarded a Gold Medal Award by the Small Business Administration (SBA) of the New York metropolitan district. In addition, for the third consecutive year Citibank received the SBA's Pacesetter Award recognizing the bank for making a significant number of new loans to women- and minority-owned businesses.

"Citibank recognizes that small businesses are the lifeblood of every community providing needed products and services and creating jobs," said Stephen Liguori, Citibanking North America Business Manager.

"Our lending performance is

indicative of our commitment to small businesses. In 1999, Citibank made 242 SBA loans, a 15% increase over the previous year with 38% of these loans going to businesses owned by either women or minorities."

The SBA annually honors corporations and individuals who have exhibited outstanding commitment and dedication in supporting the growth of small businesses.

Gold Medals are given to financial institutions that have made in excess of 100 SBA loans to small businesses during the fiscal year that ends on September 30, while the Pacesetter Award specifically commends lending to women- and minority-owned businesses.

Citibank is a global financial services organization serving consumers, businesses, governments and financial institutions through 3,000 offices in 100 countries and territories. In the United States, Citibank serves consumers and small businesses through a network of some 430 branches in nine states and the District of Columbia, as well as national credit card, mortgage, investment and electronic banking services.

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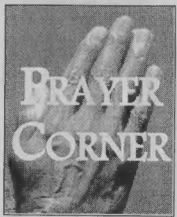
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God has a positive answer

You say: "It's impossible"
God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: "Nobody really loves me"
God says: I love you (John 3:16 and John 13:34)

You say: "I can't go on"
God says: My grace is sufficient (II Corinthians 12:9 and Psalm 91:15)

You say: "I can't figure things out"
God says: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: "I can't do it"
God says: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able"
God says: I am able (II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it"
God says: It will be worth it (Roman 8:28)

You say: "I can't forgive myself"
God says: I forgive you (I John 1:9 and Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage"
God says: I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid"
God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"
God says: Cast all your cares on Me (I Peter 5:7)

You say: "I don't have enough faith"
God says: I've given every one a measure of faith (Romans 12:3)

You say: "I'm not smart enough"
God says: I give you wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone"
God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)



Something to think about:

'Where It Began'

By S. Cornelius

Now that our society has "progressed" to the point that we have six-year-olds shooting other six-year-olds, it must be time to see. It's time for us to stand up for what we know is right for our children. Where it began... We reap what we sow. Let's see, I think it started when Madeline Murray O'Hare complained she didn't want any pictures in our schools, and we said OK.

Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school, the Bible that says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said, OK.

Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. And we said, an expert should know what he's talking about so we won't spank them anymore.

Then someone said, teachers and principals better not discipline our children when they misbehave. And the school administrators said no faculty member in this school better touch a student when they misbehave because we don't want any bad publicity, and we surely don't want to be sued. And we accepted their reasoning.

Then someone said, let's let our daughters have abortions if they want, and they won't even have to tell their parents. And we said, that's a great idea.

Then some wise school board member said, since boys will be boys and they're going to do it anyway, let's give our sons all the condoms they want, so they can have all the fun they desire, and

we won't have to tell their parents they got them at school. And we said, that's another great idea.

Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private as long as we do our jobs. And agreeing with them, we said it doesn't matter to me what anyone, including the president, does in private as long as I have a job and the economy is good.

And then someone said let's print magazines with pictures of nude women and call it wholesome down-to-earth appreciation for the beauty of the female body. And we said we have no problem with that.

And someone else took that appreciation a step further and published pictures of nude children and then stepped further still by making them available on the Internet. And we said we have no problem with that.

And the entertainment industry said, let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence, and illicit sex. And let's record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder suicide, and satanic themes. And we said it's just entertainment, it has no adverse effect, and nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead.

Therefore, now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with... we reap what we sow. It might just be time to become responsible for giving and living a higher standard of values for ourselves and our children.

Celebrated the 49th Annual National Day of Prayer in Newark

NEWARK—Join us as we join millions of Americans across the nation to celebrate the 49th Annual National Day of Prayer. Let us give evidence to the rich legacy of our brothers and sisters and this day as a day of prayer and invocation by coming together to pray for our communities, our nation and our world.

Thursday, May 4 at 12:22 p.m. on the steps of Newark City Hall, the Annual National Day of Prayer will be observed. Throughout our history, the American Nation has sought God's intervention through prayer. The Continental Congress' first official act in 1774 was to call the nation to prayer. In 1776 Congress called for the first national day of prayer and fasting "that the Lord God might bless the land."

As a modern day nation, our officials and leaders still realize our need for prayer as individuals and as a nation. President Clinton in his proclamation for last year's National Day of Prayer said, "From our earliest days, whether in times of joy or of challenge, Americans have raised their hearts and voices in prayer." He added, "Our Nation's founders prayed as they forged a democracy based on freedom and respect for human rights. Our military leaders and the millions of men and women who have served in our Armed Forces have prayed in the midst of every conflict in which our Nation has fought. And so it continues on this day, as Americans of every race, background, and creed pray in churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and their own homes for guidance, wisdom and courage in confronting the challenges before us."

Congressman Steve Largent of Oklahoma put it quite insightfully when he said, "When we unite ourselves in prayer, we can accomplish almost anything." Prayer in America is a tradition. It is one of our inalienable rights referred to in the Declaration of Independence. It is our heritage, our custom, and a way of life. On every dollar bill are the words "In God We Trust." Trust in God and prayer goes hand in hand, making prayer a national divine privilege. Let us come together to embrace the privilege of prayer and give authenticity to our motto by demonstrating that indeed we do trust in God.

ATTENTION !!

Churches & Mosques

Please send your religious editorials and calendar events to:

CITY NEWS 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F Newark, NJ 07102

Gospel Insider

"Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us."

(Psalm 65)

GOSPEL INSIDER

would like to congratulate

PURPOSE MAGAZINE

"Living More to the Meaning of Life" on the their 5th Anniversary this May a special anniversary issue will mark their celebration

If you are interested in subscription or ad information, call (614) 224-2113

HOLY PRAYER

In Gospel News, here is an issue that those of us, who love the Lord, should watch closely

The atheist organization founded by Madelyn Murray O'Hare, who has been missing for several years, has mounted a legal effort to prevent the gospel from being read on the airwaves. A hearing has been granted to consider their case.

TRI-CITY HEADLINES GOSPEL INSIDER

GOSPEL INSIDER would like to welcome the **Windy City Word** (Chicago) newspaper, which is edited by Mary Peterson into our family of newspaper affiliates.

The Windy City Word joins the

Baltimore Times
Dana Ware

Birmingham World
Joe Dickson

The Carolinian

Raleigh
Evelyn Jenay
Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans
Rennett Hall

Michigan Chronical
Detroit
Bob Kerse

City News
Newark, New Jersey
Gilda Rogers

Houston Sun
Doris Ellis

and the
Philadelphia New Observer
Hugo Warren II

BISHOP ULMER INSTALLED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Bishop Kenneth Ulmer has been installed as the new Bishop of the Macedonia International Bible Fellowship. The South African Fellowship, which is just a year old, is an organization of Pastors representing Zimbabwe, Namibia, the Congo and England.

Gospel Insider 2000
"Weekend Edition"

radio show

recently premiered nationally in 40+US Markets, including New York, Los Angeles,

San Francisco, Raleigh and Birmingham

Upcoming Gospel heavyweight guests on Gospel Insider 2000 include Richard Smallwood, who along with Shirley Caesar, Kim Burrell and John P. Kee contributed to the huge success of WOW Gospel 2000. WOW 2000 was recently certified gold.

We welcome your requests for collective community prayer for our prayer corner

Send all requests to
City News Religion Section

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Give Thanks

Take time
to give thanks for
all
God's blessings.
Most importantly,
find the
blessings in
your life
and know that
He is with you.

Religion Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 5

NEWARK - North Jersey District Missionary Baptist Association presents "Joy Night" will be held at Clearview Baptist Church with the Rev. Eric Beckham at 7 p.m. For further information call 973-242-4173.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

NEWARK - Mt. Zion Baptist Church presents its Youth Empowerment Symposium from 9 a.m.-1:00p.m. Come out and join us, there will be several pastors speaking. For further information call 973-242-4173.

SUMMIT - Concord Singers Presents "Treasure of Love & Spirit" At 7:30 p.m. the choir group will present their spring concert at St. John's Church. For further information call 908-464-5260.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Calvary-Roseville United Methodist Church proudly presents Gospel Explosion. For further information call 973-673-1745.

NEWARK - Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Dr. L. Ronald Durham at 11:00 a.m. located at 186-190 Thomas Street. For further information call 973-242-4173.

NEW YORK - Riverside Church presents 3rd Annual Spring Choral Concert featuring The Riverside Chamber Singers at 3:00 p.m. for further information call 212-870-8722.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

NEW YORK - The Riverside Church "Rap Writers & Performance Workshop" returns for an eighth year of offering aspiring young artists assistance in honing their skills, from 7-9 p.m. For further information call 212-870-8739.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

BELLEVILLE - Crusade Deliverance Holiness Church presents the "Christian Prom 2000". The event starts at 7 until 11 P.M. For further information contact Betty Hester at 973-824-4444.

NEWARK - Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Rev. Durham) will be presenting their "Youth Empowerment Symposium" from 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Come out and hear the different reverends from several different churches speak. For further information call 973-242-4173.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

WESTFIELD - The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. continuing its celebration of the new millennium, will be performing Joseph Haydn's "The Seasons" at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. For further information call 732-382-0304.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

NEWARK - Women's Support Ministry Seminar being held at Mt. Zion's Baptist Church located at 186-190 Thomas Street at 9 a.m. For further information call 973-242-4173.



Value Time

- To realize the value of **One Month**, ask the mother who gave birth to a premature baby.
- To realize the value of **One Week**, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
- To realize the value of **One Hour**, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
- To realize the value of **One Minute**, ask the person who missed the train.
- To realize the value of **One Second**, ask the person who just avoided an accident.
- To realize the value of **One Millisecond**, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.
- Treasure every moment that you have! Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is a GIFT.

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Drawing "Ethiopian Dancer" by Ellen Powell Tiberius

Graphic by Yvonne Onque

By Gilda Rogers

Startled by its mammoth size in absolute demand of your attention, you gaze upon a rich-chocolate figure of an African woman kneeling in a spectacular body of blue water—the Atlantic Ocean—with the continents of Africa and North America in full view. She kneels in tribute to the 6–20 million African lives that were lost during the Middle Passage. This very prolific and powerful work of mosaic art, which is a section of the floor in the lobby of the Charles H. Wright African American Museum in Detroit, Michigan, spiritually, taps a nerve.

A dark corridor in time, The Middle Passage, a bone-chilling horrific experience. Heaps of Africans swallowed by the big-mouthed ocean—not refusing a soul. Serving as a safe haven for those Africans, the abysmal floor is their sanctuary—a mountain range of bones.

For all who jumped ship they solidified their own fate which was far better than being in that rotten cavernous hole. The defiant ones: God rest their souls. To all those who were discarded and cast overboard, the Atlantic ocean saved them from a lowly agonizing life of slavery.

African Americans, who've yet to arrive at a place called African ancestry, the time has come to honor those souls lost. And as quiet as its been kept, black folks who acknowledge their African roots are flocking to the shores of the Atlantic to pay ceremonial tribute to their ancestors.

On Nov. 16, 1989, Tony Akim, who is affiliated with Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn was inspired to do something that would pay homage to all the millions of African lives lost—snatched from the Western shores of Africa to embark upon a treacherous trek that severed them forever from their homeland.

"It came out of the National



Story Telling Conference," said Akim. "My inspiration came from Toni Cade Bombaara who said, 'I know that we must reclaim the bones in the Atlantic Ocean... For all those that said no and jumped ship... We don't call upon those ancestors... There are no markers, nothing to administrate their existence.'"

For the past 11 years, Akim has led hundreds of people to the Atlantic shore off of Coney Island, where the "People of

Sun Middle Passage Collective" invoke formal ceremony to honor their African ancestors. The symbolic event, which is held the second Saturday in June, will be held this year on the 10th of that month. "We start at noon with libation," said Akim. "We do a cultural piece on the boardwalk until about 5 p.m. with spoken word artists, drumming and dancing. Then we go down to the ocean and do more of the program there. This year, we're going to try to do more of the program down at the ocean. We ask everyone to bring flowers."

At St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood, who is the senior pastor has led his congregation to commemorate the "Maafa," which is a Kiswahili word that means disaster, a terrible tragedy or catastrophe in realm of the Atlantic Slave Trade. The commemorative word, which was coined by Dr. Marimba Ani, from Hunter College and who is the author of "Let the Circle Be Unbroken," is an event, according to Akim, which St. Paul has been engaged in for about 10 years. According to a brochure

from St. Paul Community Baptist Church, The Maafa is a ceremonial healing process—"The way out is back through. We share and introduce this concept of the Commemoration of the Maafa to the Black Church as a 21st Century paradigm for our collective healing. It belongs not to us, but rather to the ancestors, who have waited patiently for this day of reckoning."

This oceanside commemoration is an effort to connect African Americans with their distant history. Historical to America, Africa is not a place that's visited in schoolbooks for its greatness. The members of St. Paul clad in white have honored the ancestors on the shore front of Far Rockaway, Queens, New York, to recognize that greatness.

When you consider the time-span slavery was allowed to flourish in America and the innate wrath inflicted upon the Black community for hundreds of years, this commemorative is novel—a long overdue needed reminder for all those who claim African ancestry.

To organize this type of event in your community, St. Paul Baptist Church has produced a detailed manual as to how to create your own Maafa

commemoration entitled "Strategies for Organizing to Commemorate The Maafa" which can be received by contacting St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Sr. Johnny Ray Youngblood Senior Pastor, 859 Hendrix Street Brooklyn, New York 11207. Or you can telephone (718) 257-1300 ext.132.



A member of St. Paul's Community Church remembering the "Maafa".

NOTE: Adinkra Symbols shown above
1. Gyemame: Nothing to fear but God.
2. Senank: Spirituality and purity.
3. Senkoko: Return to the source.



Local Briefs

STUDENTS TAKE PART IN BICOASTAL SIGN LANGUAGE SESSION

NEWARK — Students from Technology High School in Newark, who have been learning American Sign Language (ASL), have been recording messages on video tapes and exchanging them with deaf students in other parts of the country, such as Alaska and Kansas, in an effort to communicate using their new skills.

"The ASL program teaches students skills that can be used similarly to a foreign language," said Eleanor Gacione, who teaches the program at Technology High School. "It has been particularly rewarding to see the hearing students in conversations with our deaf students use all of their new skills to use at their place of employment."

It is taught alongside French and Spanish as a world language at Technology High School. There is also a program at the school for deaf and hard of hearing students, who are free to attend ASL classes. The video camera is being used to make tapes just one subset of equipment that Gacione recently received to supplement the ASL program at the school. Students also now have a typewriter for telephone calls and from deaf students, books with a deal there so they can learn in sign language and need to read students at the school. The program is part of the Deal — another Newark Public School, transition to attend Deal Business Day at Bruce Street, and tickets to attend an interpreted Broadway show — "Sister."

The new materials were bought after Gacione was awarded a \$3000 grant from the Newark Public Schools State District Superintendent Marion A. Roldan as part of a new initiative to support teacher initiatives.

RICE RENAMED TO EDUCATION PANEL, WILL HEAD ABBOTT SUBCOMMITTEE

TRENTON — Senate Associate Minority Leader Ronald L. Rice has been appointed to the Joint Committee on the Public Schools, whose charge includes monitoring Abbott districts such as Newark, Irvington, and East Orange.

"I want to thank both Senate Minority Leader (Richard J.) Codey and Senate President (Donald T.) DiFrancesco for having the confidence in me to reappoint me to this important education panel," said Senator Rice, D- Essex, whose 28th Legislative District includes parts of Newark, as well as Irvington, Maplewood and South Orange. "We have a number of important education issues to deal with, from early childhood education to education funding, and I look forward to tackling these and other issues of importance to urban and suburban school districts."

Senator Rice will also serve as co-chairman, along with Senator Norman M. Robertson, R-Passaic, of the Joint Committee's Abbott Subcommittee. This panel, which held a hearing on whole school reform in Newark last December, will likely gather again soon to tackle issues of importance to "Abbott" school districts, including Newark and Irvington.

"I have worked hard to develop a continuing dialogue between state education officials, including Commissioner (David) Hesse, and Newark education leaders," Senator Rice said. "It's very important that the state continue this dialogue, and I intend to use my position in heading up this panel to make sure the citizens of Newark and Irvington have their interests heard in Trenton."

The Joint Committee on the Public Schools also includes, as vice chairman, Senator Robert J. Martin, R-Morris, in addition to Democratic Senators Rice, Edward T. O'Connor Jr., and Byron M. Barr, and GOP Senators Martha W. Barr, Joseph A. Pataki and Robertson.

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07102

"Give An Hour" initiative launched at Gateway



Pictured above are the corporate sponsors of www.NJGIVES.ORG at the launch of "Give An Hour" volunteer initiative representing The Prudential Foundation, PSEG, Microsoft, The Novartis Foundation and The New Jersey Nets.

NEWARK — Hundreds of commuters, residents and students are expected to leave their "stamp of approval" at Newark's Gateway Center as www.njgives.org hosts a 24-hour volunteer registration drive and banner painting celebration marking the start of "Give An Hour." Just before midnight on April 10, an 80-foot by 8-foot banner will be unveiled on the walking-bridge that connects Gateway Center Towers 1 and 2.

Then over the next 24-hours passersby will be asked to pledge one hour of their time to www.njgives.org and leave a handprint of support on the massive banner. In recognition of the value of volunteerism, held Governor Christie Whitman and Newark Mayor Sharpe James proclaimed the day "www.njgives.org Day."

The "Give An Hour" initiative is a statewide effort to amass a bank of volunteers that each linked with one of the following general service categories: Youth, Seniors, Housing, Health and Environment. Registered volunteers will be sent e-mail notifications listing various opportunities within their community based on their designated area of interest.

www.njgives.org's goal is to accumulate a bank of 5 million hours to be utilized by New Jersey's community-based organizations. PSEG, Novartis, Microsoft, The New Jersey Nets and The Prudential Foundation

are proud sponsors of www.njgives.org. "Matching willing volunteers with non-profits in need is the basic concept of www.njgives.org," said Professor Michael Shafer, creator of www.njgives.org and director of the Citizenship and Service Education (CASE) Program at Rutgers. This user-friendly Web-based clearing-house links New Jerseyans in a single virtual community of citizens, civic organizations, elected officials, corporations and government."

"We are most appreciative of Professor Shafer in assisting us by increasing the public's awareness of volunteer opportunities within the state," said Sarah Thoma, director, Governor's Office of Volunteerism. "PSEG is proud to help launch 'Give An Hour' during the 27th annual National Volunteer Week."

"I am proud that www.njgives.org is manning a 24-hour stand in Newark's Gateway Center on April 11, as it is reaching out to the residents and businesses of New Jersey's largest city, and greatest source of caring people," said Newark Mayor Sharpe James. "I know that Newarkers of all ages and

backgrounds will see www.njgives.org's stand and moved to give that small hour to provide so much hope for so many people."

Other dignitaries that were at today's launch included: Willis Reed, executive vice president, New Jersey Nets and NBA Hall of Famer; Mary Godes, director, Governor's Office of Ethnic and Minority Affairs; and Emmet Dennis, acting vice president for students affairs at Rutgers.

"When we come together in the spirit of volunteerism, we can enact positive change and enhance the quality of life for all people," said New Jersey Secretary of State DeForest B. Soaries.

"www.njgives.org is to be commended for hosting this volunteer registration drive and for raising an awareness of the importance and the need for community service."

"We are pleased to support www.njgives.org and lend our voice in encouraging individuals and businesses alike to unselfishly donate their time," said Gabriella Morris, president of The Prudential Foundation. www.njgives.org is New Jersey's largest comprehensive source of information about civic and service organizations. The site provides a searchable directory of more than 40,000 civic organizations, online matching of volunteers and opportunities, a digital warehouse of donated goods and services, and information about upcoming events and ongoing projects.

Paterson looking for a few good teachers

PATERSON — To hear Paterson's superintendent of schools, Dr. Edward Duray tell it, "things are tough all over — especially when it comes to recruiting and retaining qualified math and science teachers. Not only are they in short supply, but when it comes to a community like Paterson in particular, and Passaic county schools in general, other larger more affluent school districts win out."

They have admitted that when they finally do find qualified teachers, they have to had to pay at the top of the scale in order to even entice them to stay for the year. Passaic County is even now paying math instructors a stipend to take on more classes in order to serve students who have had to do without.

Paterson currently needs a chemistry teacher and two physical science teachers for its high schools. The positions are currently being covered by substitutes, who, unfortunately, are clueless about the principles and do a less than adequate job. At a recent job fair, they managed to hire two science teacher candidates, however, not in the above mentioned fields. As a result, they have actually begun recruiting outside the education market, taking individuals who primary career function was other than education, but have basic skills or expertise in either math or science to fill the gap.

Along with the problems of recruitment are the problems of supply. It has become evident that not as many students are graduating with degrees in math

or science, let alone education. According to the Department of Education, there will be a need for more than 2.2 million teachers in the next ten years. The problems however are that the urban areas need those teachers and more now. With the growing

'it's the kids who get cheated in the long run if they can't learn the new technologies that make them and can't teach them'

need for qualified employees knowledgeable of the new technologies, teachers are in high demand to teach those programs. According to a report from the College of New Jersey, fewer and fewer college graduates are focusing in those areas, and there were just nine graduates in biology, with thirty-nine of its 241 education graduates in high school math or technology. A great many education majors are actually being enticed into other fields with promises of higher salaries, better working conditions, and high cost of living increases. There has also been an increase in the numbers of teachers retiring, or going into more lucrative fields.

While Paterson/Passaic

school districts agree that teachers should be paid market rate salaries, they also admit there is more lip service than real action on the part of the city and state government to make this happen. Hence, it's easier to recruit from the liberal arts and political science arenas, however, teachers with math and science skills know they can go to high tech firms and get double what

they can pay them. It's no doubt that salaries count a great deal. But convincing the people who hold the purse strings to ante up is getting more and more difficult as competition between private and public sector grows.

The bottom line, however, is it's the kids who get cheated in the long run if they can't learn the new technologies that make them and can't teach them. The

other danger is recruiting teachers who have bounced from district to district because of other presenting problems. With a growing rate of reports of teachers who turn out to be felons, the challenge is to recruit those who are actually fit to work in the classroom, and whether or not they can sustain an intensive background check. And the vicious cycle continues.

Uniting & Building Community



We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands. We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.

— Paul Robeson

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GPU Corporate Executives from left to right: Mike Chessar, Mark Olyfin, Yolanda Garie, Toby Stanislaw and Carl Brooks



Rev. Ronald Durham, Bishop William Cahoon, Joanne and Jon Corzine

Dale Caldwell
The Newark AllianceCharlene Brown
AT&TMaurice Brown
Bell AtlanticLeonard Johnson
Horizon Mercy

Debbie Brown, Frazee Harris, Nat Harris, vice president, United National Bank and Corby Ellis-Mara, marketing director, City National Bank



Former honorees Franotte Washington and Veronica Faye Taylor



Port Authority Executives Wilfred Chabrier, Lash L. Green, John W. Alexander, Jr., with State Senator Ronald Rice

Continued from page A1

those delighted to see each other mixed with the jazz sounds of The Cool Brook III and the CB III Band was the scene during the tri-level two-hour reception. At the top of the roundtable, renowned artist Alonzo Adams, a former honoree, displayed a montage of artwork that have become very distinct conversation pieces in the homes of the rich and famous and not so rich.

Indeed, in retrospect, the acclaimed reunion has become what many presenters and honorees referred to as "one big family."

"In the cocktail hour almost everyone knew each other as extended family," said Al Koepp, president and chief operating officer of PSE&G, as he recalled the inaugural "100 Most Influential" celebration.

"In the first gathering in 1996, we didn't know what the event would be. The ceremony started at 8 p.m. and didn't end until 2 in the morning — the evening ran long. There was

usually lead to the conviction of Evers' assassin, Byron DeLaBeauvoir. His story was a very poignant moment in the celebration, as was the salute to the Tuskegee Airman, who were honored in 1997.

However, not to go unnoticed were the sponsors who made the event possible — Co-sponsors Schering-Plough, AT&T, Bell Atlantic, Horizon Mercy, PSE&G, GPU, Prudential, The EIT Group, United National Bank, WBLB 107.5, WLIB 1190, Anheuser-Busch, Inc., Bally's Park Place, Continental Airlines, Eorsi, Pepsi-Cola, Summit Bank, Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Avis, City National Bank, Horizon Blue Cross & Blue Shield of New Jersey, Investors Savings Bank, PNC Bank, Time Warner and Valley National Bank.

"This evening is really about recognizing the companies and people that have really made a difference in our communities," said Richard Zahn, president of Schering Laboratories and whose company has been a major



Henry and Jan Johnson, Publishers of CITY NEWS

sponsor of the 100.

Each major sponsor that made his or her way to the podium spoke of the vision of Henry and Jan Johnson.

"We're so glad to be here to honor all the honorees," said Len Johnson (no relation to the publishers). "The Johnsons are a people of action. They see a vision and they'll do it."

To all in attendance, the Johnsons highlighted an initiative — CITYNET — which was introduced as a deliberate concept to build collaborations and partnerships that will spawn dynamic improvement in urban centers.

Conceptually, CITYNET begins the discussion to promote these collaborations as a means to create meaningful opportunities for



Artist Alonzo Adams and Cyndie Jones

Shanda Laws of City News, Geraldine Rippey of Horizon Mercy and Migdalia Gomez International Churches of Christ

ored in 1996. The Chinese-American recalled reading the "New York Times," as instructed by his father as the paper to read when he was a little boy. He read about the death of Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers, who had been gunned down on the front lawn of his home. This event shook him as a young child before he ever knew he would grow to become a news reporter. Twenty-nine years after the death of Evers, Chang traveled to Mississippi, where he discovered new evidence, which would eventually

lead to the conviction of Evers' assassin, Byron DeLaBeauvoir. His story was a very poignant moment in the celebration, as was the salute to the Tuskegee Airman, who were honored in 1997.

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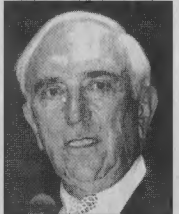
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Most Influential Gala 2000

Honorees lauded ...



Rev. DeForest Buster Soares, Secretary of State of New Jersey



Senator Frank Lautenberg

By Kelly Foster

It was a night of paying tribute to the past, celebrating the present, and envisioning the future, as City News 100 Most Influential Gala honorees, past and present, joined together at NJPAC to honor themselves and each other.

Five special honorees, recognized for their commitment to their communities, were called to the stage to accept plaques for their exceptional contributions. They included: Secretary of State DeForest B. Soares, Rev. David Jefferson, Rev. Reginald Jackson, Fred D. Hafer, and Senator Frank Lautenberg.

Soares, whose award was accepted by Mary Cudjoe, who is Gov. Whitman's Director of Ethnic and Minority Affairs. Soares became secretary of state in January 1998.

He is committed to helping at-risk youth. Along with Gov. Whitman, he formed a program called V-Free, a program designed to curb youth violence, victimization, and vandalism. As pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, Soares has expanded his congregation by more than 3,500.

Rev. David Jefferson, pastor of one of the largest African American churches in New Jersey, accepted his award from Al Koepp, President and COO of PSE&G, juggles many different vocations. In addition to his role as minister, he serves as Executive Vice President for AT&T and is also a lawyer.

"I'd like to thank you for this honor," he said. "We've scratched the surface. It's appropriate to accept this honor on behalf of all the members of the Metropolitan Church."

Jefferson, who through his ministry has worked towards improving the lives of inner-city youth directs 35 ministries that provides support for Newark's needy population.

"I want to let people know that self-sufficiency is not a bad word, it's a good word," he said. "We accept this award for all the churches," he continued. "We want to make economic development a reality... one of the greatest assets in African-American community is the church. Our churches must lead us in making economic development a reality."

Like Jefferson and Soares, Rev. Reginald J. Jackson, is a minister on the move. He is Executive Director of the Black Minister's Council, which represents more 600 African-American churches in New Jersey. His council has been instrumental in fighting racial profiling in New Jersey. During his leadership at St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church, the congregation increased from 150 members to 1500 members. GPU Vice-President Carl Brooks presented the award, and Rev. Dwight Gill, of the East Orange New Hope Baptist Church, accepted on Jackson's behalf.

Next honored was Fred Hafer, chairman and president of GPU. Through GPU, Hafer has dedicated himself to fostering workplace diversity and supporting minority business ventures. GPU supported City News by helping to launch its YES magazine, and has given sponsorship to City News and

CITYNET, among other women and minority publications. Additionally, GPU supports local NAACP and Urban League groups.

After his introduction by award presenter Elizabeth Christopherson, Executive Director of the New Jersey Network, Hafer joked that it was "rare to hear your own obituary."

"I'm honored and privileged to share this evening with past honorees," exclaimed Hafer. "Our collective progress will shape our future. As business



Presenter: Elizabeth Christopherson, Executive Dir. NJN



Presenter: Rev. Calvin McKinney, President, NJ Baptist Convention

leaders, we must be engaged, we must remain part of the solution, and foster environments that encourage every individual. It is with great pride and gratitude that I stand here."

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was Senator Frank Lautenberg, who had flown in for the evening from Washington, D.C. just in time to receive his award. Rich Zahn, President of Schering Laboratories, presented the award. Lautenberg, whose legislative successes include the areas of crime prevention, economic security, gun control and health care, thanked the African-American community for supporting his campaigns.

Declaring that many people are too concerned with material matters, Lautenberg suggested all members of the Senate spend a week in urban poverty, to get an understanding of what matters in urban communities.

"What's important is knowing who's taking care of my children, who's taking care of my mother," he said.

Unless we provide children with a vision, they'll be missing important assets," Lautenberg continued.

My belief in America is that unless everyone feels good about themselves, none of us can be settled. We can't forget about those impoverished children."

Don't Get Locked Up!

Get Locked In!



Sgt. Cabarus, a Newark corrections officer stands next to mock jail with students inside

Photo by Norman DeShong

'Rita Owens, who is Queen Latifah's mother and teaches at the school was one of the organizers of this novel and worthwhile event.'



Queen Latifah with her mother Rita Owens

Photo by Norman DeShong

'a select group, accompanied by some adult folk down in the community locked themselves in for the night and received a heavy dose of inspiration'



Students of Irvington High School model the latest fashions

photo by Norman DeShong

By Gilda Rogers

IRVINGTON-AN all night jam of a different kind — bumpy music, food and drink, the latest fashion trends, teens mingling and disliking the dirt on "Dirty T." This sounds like your typical teen scene, right? WRONG! The 90 or so teens that assembled in Irvington High School's gym on April 20, around 8:30 p.m. and didn't emerge until about that same time the next morning were many things — but not your typical.

These teens, a select group, accompanied by some adult folk down in the community locked themselves in for the night and received a heavy dose of inspiration, peer issues counseling, some amazing words that reverberated powerful truths throughout the room. Welcome to Irvington High School's Urban Youth Coalition Lock-In 2000 — where teens take center stage and minister to one another.

The roster of entertainment was to be believed, as it that translates in today's lingo "off-the-hook." But then it would have to be after all this was an all night groove thing. There were the Brick City Dancers a group of high school girls who performed a raring montage of free-style dancing. There were The Cabarus Brothers, whose soulful angelic voices and their rendition of "Amazing Grace" brought people to their feet. Malik Jones, 24, an Irvington High 1994 graduate and recording artist and it would seem a disciple of Rev. Jesse Jackson sent an emphatic declaration to the youth that said, "I am Somebody." Celebrity make-up artist Tamika Riley, 31, a native of Jersey City, who prides herself in being a "photo elicitor" that came from the hood and has built a dynamic marketing and public relations business (TRI, Inc.), was "glittered fabulous" as she delighted the crowd with her uncanny style of motivational speaking. Other speakers included Danny Cruz and soon-to-be Wesleyan Honor graduate and product of Irvington High School, Evans Aiyemwa. And all hail the Queen — as in Queen Latifah, who was there and also is a graduate of Irvington High School. She was an example to the kids of all the endless possibilities — successful rap artist, motion picture artist, business woman and on her way to becoming a talk show queen (no pun intended) with the renewal of her spot for a second season.

Rita Owens, who is Queen Latifah's mother and teaches at the school was one of the organizers of this novel and worthwhile event, along with administrator, Julie Slattery, and administrative advisor, Yolanda Delany. Edna Davison, who is the principal of the school was there to support the event. And though not in attendance Superintendent Earnest H. Smith

gave a favorable thumbs-up to the spirited occasion. But the highlight of the event, unequivocally, was a group of teens



Tamika Riley Photo by Norman DeShong

who go by the name of the "Power Kids." Their freeze-frame style of performing thought-provoking skits was brutally effective. The University of Medical and Dentistry based group of high school young-



Keesam Johnson Photo by Norman DeShong

sters have committed themselves to making people more aware and educated about HIV/AIDS, the proper use of a condom the importance of being tested for HIV and teenage pregnancy — while being paid \$8 an hour for this life-altering gig. But even more important is the fact that they're making a difference.

"I love it," said Arts High School student, Keesam Johnson, 16, who went through a three-month training course before being certified a Power Kid. "Our friends look up to you because they come and ask us ques-

Michael Brown, 18, who is also a Power Kid and attends Central High School in Newark said, "It'll have impact. If we can only

touch one person tonight then we've done our job."

Assuredly, they touched many. The program under the direction of James E. Anderson has been in existence for five years. Their rehearsed enactment of real life scenarios, which is enhanced by candid improvisation is delivered so straight at you that a young person, heck, an older one for that matter is inclined to think, before making a decision that could alter the rest of their life — having unprotected sex and risking the possibility of becoming HIV infected — a character portrayal of "Dirty T." This particular scene dealt with a teenage girl named Tamara, who the guys on the corner dubbed "Dirty T" because she'd slept around and had become HIV positive.

They pull no punches. The Power Kids demonstrated what to expect for on a condom, such as an expiration date, air pockets, not to use sharp objects when opening a condom package. They even demonstrated how to make a mouth dam, for those performing oral sex, with a condom. When purchasing a condom, according to the Power Kids, insist on latex because lambskin condoms do not guard against HIV antibodies. These kids were all of that and some.

Robin Franklin, 23, who currently is a coordinator for the program was once herself a Power Kid. A graduate of Douglass College at Rutgers, Franklin earned a degree in public health, and credits the program as her reason for seeking higher education in this field.

"My degree in public health is a direct result of me being a Power Kid," and Franklin, who feels "a lot of responsibility to give back to her community. The group has been featured on BET's Teen Summit and MTV.

Giving the kids a reality check, Sgt. Cabarus, who is a corrections officer in Newark brought a profound visual aid with him on this night — a mock jail cell and prison garb to match. He had some of the kids dress in the bright orange jumpsuits and get inside the cell. Cabarus electrified the audience with a monologue that rivaled the best Baptist preacher. Almost pleading, he begged the children to stray away from trouble, because of the 2 million inmates in the prison population, most are young black men.

Owens, who many of her students refer to as "Mamma O," viewed the event as an overall success.

"They (kids) had fun, but they received valuable information, too. It was important to me to bring in former students from Irvington High School that are doing great things today to show them what they can do with their lives." Indeed, this point came across — loud and clear!

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1990 Community Service Award/Outstanding Service/Concerned Black Heroes of Newark, NJ Urban and Special Programs for Youth	1990 Best News Photo National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Kansas, Baltimore	1989 Journalistic Excellence, Civic Dedication, Community Pride Seventh Day Adventist Church, Plainfield, NJ
1990 Community Service Award Omega Psi Phi	1990 Founder's Day Award Omega Psi Phi	1989 Pledge in Plainfield Pledgeholder Mayor Richard Taylor
		1989 Resolutions NJ State General Assembly Assemblywoman Angela Patur

Heartbeat Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 4
BELLE MEADE: The Corner Clinic hosts a bipolar disorder seminar at 12 noon. For further information, call (908) 209-1461.

FRIDAY, MAY 5
NEW BRUNSWICK: St. Peter's University Hospital, sponsors a breastfeeding support group at 4 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-6950, ext. 6820.

TUESDAY, MAY 9
PARSIPPANY: The Alzheimer's Association of Northern New Jersey will host a golf raffle drawing at 7 p.m. For more information, call (973) 316-6676.

SATURDAY, MAY 13
NEW BRUNSWICK: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts its third annual Annals Patient's Family Conference, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information call (732) 418-8110.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17
NEWARK: The Newark Beth Israel-Center for Genetic Health Care hosts a support group for caregivers at 4:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 626-5771.

SATURDAY, MAY 20
NEW BRUNSWICK: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a Parkinson Disease Information conference. For further information, call (732) 745-7520.

Mail or email your health calendar items to:

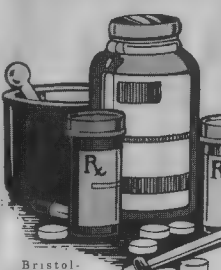
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Dangerous medication

Bristol-Myers Squibb delays launch of highly touted blood pressure medication



the growth rate of the company in question.

Still, Ryan said, the resulting stock plunge Wednesday has left shares "grossly undervalued right now, and I would be a buyer," expecting the price to move up modestly and recover within a year.

The company's shares tumbled 22 percent. Recently, the stock fell another \$1 to \$49.93/4, despite the company's first-quarter earnings beating Wall Street forecasts.

Bristol Myers reported earnings of \$1.22 billion, or 61 cents per diluted share, on revenue of \$5.26 billion up from \$1.01 billion, or 53 cents per share, on revenue of \$4.85 billion last year. Analysts surveyed by First Call/Thomson Financial had expected earnings of 60 cents a share.

Vanlev has been studied in nearly 7,000 patients, with some staying on the drug up to two years. Bristol Myers said a little more than 1 percent of patients experienced swelling problems, including four patients who needed to have a tube inserted down their throat because they had trouble breathing, the company said.

While the swelling problem, known as angioedema, is a rare side effect of some blood pressure drugs, the FDA seemed more concerned with the severe cases in which intubations were needed, the company said. The swelling problem was mainly seen in black people, it added.

The FDA had been reviewing the drug since December and had been expected to

approve it by June.

Bristol-Myers now says it will conduct more studies on the drug, and wait until early next year to reapply for federal approval.

"We remain bullish on this drug," said Richard Lane, the president of the company's Worldwide Medicines Group, based in Princeton, N.J. "We hope to show the four cases of severe angioedema were statistical anomalies, and not a signal of increased risk."

The swelling problems occurred with patients shortly after they started taking the pill, the company said. As a result, the company will look into starting patients on a lower dosage to reduce the risk.

Tony Butler, senior pharmaceutical and biotechnology analyst at Lehman Brothers in New York, said that strategy works and the data Bristol Myers presents next year to the FDA shows Vanlev doesn't have worse side effects than existing hypertension drugs. Vanlev's sales potential might not be diminished.

Bristol-Myers, which has its corporate headquarters in New York, had gone to great lengths to promote Vanlev in the past year, including touting the results of earlier studies.

Analysts had estimated Vanlev could make more than \$2 billion in sales by 2004, projecting it would be the company's top-selling drug.

Bristol-Myers was counting on Vanlev sales to make up for falling sales of its current top drug, Pravachol, a cholesterol-lowering pill. It also was hoping that revenue from Vanlev would help offset anticipated lower sales of its cancer drug

Taxol, which is facing patent challenges.

The delay with Vanlev also gives a boost to rival Pfizer Inc., maker of Norvasc, the top-selling hypertension drug. Norvasc had sales last year of more than \$3 billion.

Vanlev was designed to simultaneously inhibit two key enzymes which regulate blood pressure.

At a medical meeting last fall, studies found Vanlev outperformed two mainstays of blood pressure control, a top-selling ACE inhibitor and a calcium-channel blocker.

Vanlev appeared to do a better job of lowering both systolic and diastolic pressure.

Systolic is the pressure in the arteries when the heart beats, while diastolic is the pressure between beats. Systolic is the first and larger of the two numbers. Ideal blood pressure is less than 140 over 90.

Like standard ACE inhibitors, Vanlev blocks an angiotensin converting enzyme, which raises blood pressure. However, the medicine also stops another enzyme called neural endopeptidase. By doing this, the medicine protects the body's supply of other helpful substances that make blood vessels relax and prevent dangerous overgrowth of heart muscle.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, affects more than 600 million people worldwide. Three of four people with high blood pressure in the U.S. are not at or below the recommended target goal, which puts them at increased risk of heart attack, stroke, heart failure, and kidney disease.

Get the lowdown on cholesterol

The American Heart Association has teamed up with two pharmaceutical companies to help people learn why their cholesterol numbers are important and to teach them what they can do to lower their cholesterol levels. If you have access to the Internet, log on to <http://www.cholesterol-lowdown.org>. This interactive web site lists sites and dates for free cholesterol screenings, tells what you should know about cholesterol and provides a risk assessment survey for heart disease. People who have two or more risk factors on the survey will be encouraged to enroll in The Cholesterol Low Down Rewards Program, an incentive program designed to motivate people to help themselves. Fit-

ness tips, heart-healthy recipes and other information will be emailed to those who enroll.

One of the celebrity

'According to the American Heart Association, there are many Americans who look fit and healthy but may still be at risk for heart disease'

spokespersons for the program is Debbie Allen, who helped to create the film "Amistad," an Academy Award-nominee. She

also worked on several hit television series, including "Fame," "Fresh Prince," and "A Different World."

Debbie lost her father, grandfather, uncle and aunt to heart disease and understands the need to manage cholesterol levels to reduce the risk of heart disease. She's urging all Americans to learn their cholesterol numbers and to learn how to manage their cholesterol and other risk factors for heart disease.

According to the American Heart Association, there are many Americans who look fit and healthy but may still be at risk for heart disease because they have dangerously high cholesterol. High cholesterol has no symptoms. When com-

bined with another risk factor such as smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, a family history of heart disease or a sedentary lifestyle, high cholesterol places a person at greater risk for developing heart disease.

The web site includes the following tips on how to lower your cholesterol:

- which foods to eat, which to avoid, and cooking tips such as basting with wine or fruit juice instead of meat drippings. It also provides information about cholesterol-lowering medicines.
- If you don't have Internet access, you can call the American Heart Association at 1-800-242-8721.
- Of course, neither a web site nor a phone call is a substitute

for a consultation with your own doctor. Talk with your doctor or nurse about your cholesterol numbers, and use every visit to a health care professional as an opportunity to discuss cholesterol and other risk factors for heart disease.

New technology for ear, nose and throat

The Harmonic Scalpel was recently made available as an alternative surgical option to the patients who make up the 3.7 million ear, nose and throat (ENT) procedures performed annually, with 597,000 of those being tonsillectomies. Harold Arlen, M.D., an ENT surgeon at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, has been utilizing this new technology and has already performed more than 70 procedures.

In the past, one of two methods was used to perform tonsillectomy surgery: electro-surgery or laser surgery. Both methods use either light or intense electrical energy that operates at very high temperatures to make an incision through human tissue. This procedure often left patients with charred or burnt tissue and a lengthy recovery time.

All that has changed as the Food and Drug Administration cleared the Harmonic Scalpel for tonsillectomies. This is a new application for ultrasonic energy. The Harmonic Scalpel uses ultrasonic energy to make surgical incisions. Initially developed in 1990, the Harmonic Scalpel was used for obstetrics and gynecological procedures. The expanded use of the Harmonic Scalpel now includes tonsillectomies as well as other ENT procedures. Dr. Arlen has been

utilizing the Harmonic Scalpel during the past year to perform tonsillectomies as well as procedures for snoring and sleep apnea with great results.

This ultrasonic energy uses sound waves that turn electrical energy into mechanical motion, and at the same time coagulates (the process of clotting).

'Use of the Harmonic Scalpel decreases surgery time and no electrical currents are passed to or through the patient.'

formation) small blood vessels with minimal tissue damage.

With only a few Harmonic Scapels in use around the country, Dr. Arlen is using his expertise to teach fellow ENT surgeons about this new application. The Harmonic Scalpel is a very effective tool for ENT procedures. It takes less time, is easier to handle, offers improved surgical environment and increased safety for patients and personnel.

"In speaking with my patients, they heal quicker and get back to normal eating

habits faster," said Dr. Men.

The Harmonic Scalpel offers a more favorable choice for both the surgeon and the patient. Unlike electro-surgery and laser surgery which use light (intense electrical energy which passes through the patient and operates at high temperatures) to vaporize or burn through human tissues, ultrasonic instruments like the Harmonic Scalpel make incisions at much lower temperatures. Use of the Harmonic Scalpel requires very little time and no electrical currents are passed to or through the patient. In addition, there is no burning of tissue, thereby reducing thermal tissue damage and lessening trauma to the tissue, which can ultimately reduce post-operative pain and blood loss during and after surgery.

Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, a 396-bed acute care facility, an affiliate of the Solaris Health System, serving the greater Central New Jersey region. The System includes acute care hospitals, outpatient and outpatient rehabilitation centers, nursing and convalescent facilities assisted living communities and specialized treatment programs. More than 1,000 of the area's finest surgeons, physicians and dentists are affiliated with Solaris Health System.

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NEWARK — NJPAC hosts a children's jazz concert at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (973) 297-0897.

NEWARK —NJPAC hosts Sweet Honey in the Rock at 8 p.m. For more information, call (973) 297-0897.

PARANMUS — Bergen Community College presents the New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars at 8 p.m. For further information, call (201) 447-7200.

RAHWAY — The Union County Arts Center hosts Pam Lufkin at 8 p.m. For further information, call (732) 498-8226.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

WOODBURGH — The Barron Arts Center hosts a poetry event at 8 p.m. For more information, call (732) 634-0413.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

NEWARK — NJPAC hosts the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (973) 297-0897.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

NEW YORK — The Jazz at Lincoln Center series presents "Jazz on Film: Itterburg, Jump & Jive" at 9 p.m. For more information, call (212) 721-6500.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

NEWARK — NJPAC presents "Jazz for Teens" at 12:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 297-0897.

'Where the Heart Is' flatlines compared to book

By Bob Thomas (AP)

Converting a novel into a movie can be a tricky journey. A book can provide a studio with a complete story, fully developed characters — and a ready audience if it's a major best seller. That's the good part. The drawbacks: authors often tell their stories through the characters' inner thoughts, which are difficult to dramatize, and novels can run hundreds of pages with long time spans and multiple characters, making it hard to condense into a two-hour movie.

"Where the Heart Is," not to be confused with the current Paul Newman film, "Where the Money Is," exhibits both the pluses and the minuses of book adaptation.

The novel by Billie Letts, a main selection of Oprah's Book Club, proved an entertaining heartwarmer for thousands of readers. The movie benefits from the author's idiosyncratic characters and their bizarre happenings. But the necessary condensation sometimes brings an abruptness to the plot.

Pregnant, 17-year-old Novalee Nation (Natalie Portman) is fleeing from her Tennessee homeland with her boyfriend, Willy Jack, Pickens (Dylan Bruno), a young primitive



Novalee (Natalie Portman, left) and Lexie (Ashley Judd) become fast friends in "Where The Heart Is." File photo

with musical ambitions. They get as far as Oklahoma, where she makes a comfort stop at a Wal-Mart store. She emerges to find Willy Jack vanished, leaving her with nothing but her Polaroid camera. The girl soon benefits from the kindness of strangers,

notably Sister Husband (Stockard Channing), a free-living though devout woman; Lexie Coop (Ashley Judd), mother of children she names after sweets (Brownie, Praline, etc.); and Forney Hull (James Frain), an orphan with an alcoholic sister. Novalee takes up residence in

the Wal-Mart after-hours by hiding in the lavatory. When she goes into labor, Forney crashes through a window and delivers the baby daughter, who has a brief touch of fame as "the Wal-Mart baby."

While the Oklahoma plot grows in complexity, Willie

Jack's wanderings are interspersed. He gets thrown in the slammer, where he borrows a guitar and composes a mournful tune. Released, he finds a flirty Nashville agent (Joan Cusack) who spruces up his image and makes the song a hit. Willie Jack goes downhill from there.

Matt Williams, who helped create and produce such TV hits as "Roseanne" and "Home Improvement," makes his directing debut with "Where the Heart Is." He is adept at limning the rare characters and handling both the humor and the tragedy.

Where the problem is the writers (Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel) try to cover too much of the novel's plot so that the latter part of the film seems fragmentary and hurried. And the Willy Jack sequences interrupt the flow.

Portman, very much unlike her Queen Amlaia in the "Star Wars" prequel, is remarkably persuasive as the unchooled Novalee. All of the actresses have telling moments, as do the men, including Keith David as a photographer who teaches Novalee.

The 20th Century Fox release was produced by Williams, Susan Carsonis, David McFadden and Patricia Whitcher. Rated PG-13 for some adult attitudes. Running time: 119 minutes.



Entertainment Notes

LL Cool J in talks to play Whoopi's son

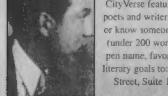
Rapper-turned-actor LL Cool J is in final negotiations to play the role of Whoopi Goldberg's son in the comedy, "King-



Whoopi Goldberg File photo

dom Come." The Fox Searchlight film is scheduled to start in two weeks with Doug McHenry directing. The movie is about a family that puts aside its differences to bury its patriarch.

CityVerse



CityVerse features the works of aspiring poets and writers. If you have some work or know someone who does, send entries (under 200 words) with your full name, pen name, favorite writer and book, and literary goals to: CityVerse, 111 Mulberry Street, Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102.

With a dirty finger and tears in their eyes children call for mama to be by their sides.

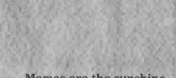
To their children's lives they are sworn horizons of life seem bright and clear...

Nothing to fear hope for children on tomorrows morn everyday children will be born... And mamas will always be there.

No fear of remorse...just smiles to rejoice she will always be waiting with outstretched hands throughout international land.

by Val Kelly

Mamas are the saviors.



Mamas are the sunshine.

Mama/Love
by Val Kelly

'The Jamie Foxx Show' in final negotiations

"The Jamie Foxx Show," starring comedian actor Jamie Foxx is in final negotiations for renewal for a fifth season. The show, which first aired in 1996, will probably be moved from its Friday night spot to make room for "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch," which was lured away from ABC. Entertainment Weekly has reported.



Natalie Cole File photo

British cook show cancelled

The Ainsley Harriott Show, the syndicated cooking talk show, did not make the list of new shows being picked up for next year. The show, hosted by Ainsley Harriott, a British chef, first aired in January under Disney, but was not able to get the high ratings needed to help the show stay afloat. So far Queen Latifah's show has been the only new talk show picked up for next year.

Natalie Cole's life to be a TV flick

NBC is in negotiations to make a movie based on singer Natalie Cole's life. Cole will play herself from childhood until 1991 when she won the award for "Unforgettable." The movie will be aired the same time her new autobiography, "Angel on My Shoulder," will be released in bookstores in November.

Elian story to become TV film

CBS announced that it is planning a two-part television movie about the Elian Gonzalez story, possibly being slated for a November sweeps week release. CBS president Leslie Moonves said the movie will follow Gonz-

Ahmad Rashad to host second show

NBC sports analyst Ahmad Rashad has announced that he will anchor the syndicated show "Real TV." He will replace John Daly as the host of the show, an all-video reality format that

'Where in the Universe' comes to Newark Museum

NEWARK — A billion miles from Earth the cunning and elusive Carmen Sandiego has just made off with the famed rings of Saturn! It's the crime of the millennium and NASA and the AMCE Detective Agency need help fast, so it's up to planetarium audiences to track down this infamous — and now intergalactic — master thief!

The Newark Museum's Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss Planetarium unveils an exciting mystery case in outer space as its newest feature, "Where in the Universe is Carmen Sandiego?" makes its official New York/metropolitan-area debut this month.

"Where in the Universe is Carmen Sandiego?" combines astronomy, live theater, animation, a quiz show and music by the hit group, Rockapella, resulting in an exciting, interactive experience ideal for adult and children ages seven to 13. The show remains on the Dreyfuss Planetarium schedule through October 2000.

"Where in the Universe is Carmen Sandiego?" plays now through June 25 on Saturdays

and Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m. From July 1 through August 20, the show will run Wednesdays through Fridays at 2:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The fall schedule is to be announced; for updates, call (973) 596-6529.

Admission to the Dreyfuss Planetarium is \$3 for adults; \$2 for Museum members; and \$1 for children, seniors and students with I.D. An adult must accompany children, and seating is limited.

Also an innovative presentation for school groups, private screenings are available by appointment through June 2000. To reserve school programs for groups of up to 50 or for information on group fees, teachers/school administrators may call (973) 596-6590.

The extraordinary fun star show is based on the popular educational computer games and television series "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" (PBS). "Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego?" (Fox) and "Where is Time is Carmen Sandiego?" (PBS).

Denzel Washington signs to new role

Denzel Washington recently signed to star in "John Q," a



Denzel Washington File photo

New Line Cinema film with Nick Cassavetes scheduled to direct

The film, written by Jim Keams, follows the story of a family without health insurance. Washington plays a angry father who has trouble getting medical help for his son and takes the hospital emergency room hostage.

Washington also has a movie coming out this fall called "Remember the Titans," and will make his directing debut in "Finding Fish," a Fox Searchlight show based on the autobiographical story of security guard turned actor Antwone Fisher.

Lil'Zane to make acting debut

Lil' Zane, the 16-year-old rapper signed to Priority Records, is scheduled to make his acting debut in the film "Finding Forrester," a Columbia Films flick about a black athlete who is at an all white prep school and develops a mentoring relationship with another writer.

Lil' Zane will play the friend of the athlete, and Sean Connery will play the author who helps guide the athlete towards his career as a writer. Gus Van Sant ("Good Will Hunting") will direct, and the film is reported to feature F. Murray Abraham and Busta Rhymes.

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CityStyle

City News B6

May 3—May 9, 2000

Club Prestige:

A small club making a big name for itself

By Rob Williams

LINDEN — It's the place where the you can hear the cooing of Maxwell at the beginning of his song, "Ascension," and husky wail of Carl Thomas' "I Wish."

It's where the heart of New Jersey soul is captured, and it has become Linden's best kept secret.

It's Club Prestige, and although this club is not tucked between the skyscrapers of New York City, it is a place that lives up to name.

Here the prestige is captured in the class of the decor, the patrons, owner and employees, but most importantly, the performers who grace the stage at the open mic on Wednesdays.

"There are no slouches on the stage. You are getting a variety of poets, singers, rappers, and my band is tight," said Melissa Pearyer, owner of Club Prestige.

These Wednesday night performances, aptly deemed "Hump Day Mixer," brings together a crowd of thirty through fifty somethings, with occasional twenty-something drifters looking for a more mellow feel with authentic and talented performers.

Many clubs and cafes have open mics, but Club Prestige owner Pearyer, of Plainfield, said that through the "six degrees of separation," and God, she has been able to acquire an outstanding roster of talent to perform at the Wednesday Night Mixer.

It was the six degrees of separation, and they (my friends) just put them (the performers) down. Ambrosia came, loved it, she loved the atmosphere, and she brought more people out. Showing people love and seeing the atmosphere around them is comfortable," Pearyer said.

Pearyer bought the club last year and started operating in August, and faced the problem of making her club stand out among the clubs in the northern New Jersey region. Her friend, Lee, who was a singer and former Apollo winner, introduced her to Rico Tyler, an established musician who shared her interest in creating a house band for the club. Soon Tyler brought together "The Flow," a group of musicians who have established themselves in the music industry.

"These were members I've known before in different situa-



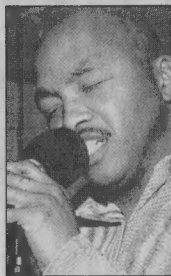
Ambrosia



Teri Tobin



Europe



Will Williams

agement the audience offers to the more reluctant performers, as they edged singer Teri Tobin to show off her warm, polished sound. Another example is bass guitarist Jonathan Davis, who is an honorary member of the flow. "I love the live atmosphere, the vibe. They are doing things



Patrons dance during the intermission.



The Flow's music director and keyboardist, Rico Taylor (left), does an impromptu jam with guitarist Samaat (right) during the open mic.

Photos by Pablo Tino



DJ Tamir



Lee

Jersey City native, comes strong with a sultry and powerful voice that is as vibrant as the elegantly patterned dress and headwrap she wears.

"I love it, I love it, I love it! The energy, the people, the whole vibe. It's hot," said Ambrosia.

The family feel of the place can be seen through the encour-



Harvey Morris

"It's a family atmosphere. Everybody's familiar with everybody."

— Melissa Pearyer

er." In fact, the feel of these nights are so good, performers come for free and Pearyer offers free admission and a buffet to entice potential customers to come.

Each Wednesday night is hosted by Williams, who as host warms the crowds with songs by artists like Maxwell and Carl Thomas, but who, like the band, "The Flow," seems unlimited in what songs he can perform.

While the spot light shines on him, discreetly it is "The Flow," the house band that many of the performers credit with knowing almost any song a person can request.

"You can't ask for a better back-up. I lay it down, they pick it up. They can play anything. They have a full sound and they play together," said Europe, a spoken word poet who regularly performs.

"We are ministers of music, so if there is only one person in the audience and we make that person feel good, then we have done our job," Morris said.

Some of the nights' more featured performers include Lee, Pearyer's childhood friend, who sings a version of "Sweet Thang," that would make Mary J. Blige run and hide.

"They are so receiving here. You don't get to come to too many places where you are received well. Everybody comes here to have a good time. In here, no one is better than anyone else. We came to have a good time and that is what we do," said Lee.

Europe adds a diversity to the night with his poetry, which touches on political and humorous aspects of life. Ambrosia, a

"They [the crowd] need something to place. There hasn't been a place around here where they can have a good time. Here you feel you can do whatever you want, and it's safe," said Will Williams of Newark, and host of Wednesday night mixer.

Here is the place to get reacquainted with old friends and associates, meet new friends, and get a taste of that next rising star out of New Jersey.

And although most places "front" that they have the hottest act, word of mouth has quickly spread about Club Prestige, because its open mic has attracted many top-notch artists in New Jersey. This roster of talent dispels the myth that the only place to see the next Maxwells and Whitney Houstons is at some New York hot spot. The open mic is also known for its variety of performers.

"I like the poets because they are bringing a message, adding an additional flavor. We are creating while we are actually on stage," said Harvey Morris, drummer for "The Flow," the house band at Club Prestige.

tions through the tri-state area. I decided on working with these cats because of the flow, the vibe, the way we work together, and most of the stuff is without rehearsal," said Tyler, music director and keyboardist for "The Flow."

By December, with the band in tow, Pearyer decided to start her open mic in March, and reached out to another friend, Rahn Haymon, a local promoter who has gained a reputation for having contacts to some of New Jersey's best undiscovered talent. Haymon saw promise in the project and was excited to work with Pearyer on the project.

In March the open mic night premiered, and soon the slow crowd of 20 to 30 grew to 70-80, leaving standing room only in the small, cozy spot tucked between Baltimore Ave. and the railroad tracks that intersect St. Georges Ave.

"It's a family atmosphere. Everybody's familiar with everybody. We get familiar with the artists coming out. Everybody feels good because they have a good time. They feel good getting up on the stage," said Pearyer.

Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by Packaged Facts, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

*Packaged Facts is a product of FINDSVP Research Publications Group

2 great ways to reach the African-American Business & Professional Community

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Minority Business Journal

The *Minority Business Journal* is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. *MBJ* regularly features the accomplishments of minority and

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD, NJ

The Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director to direct and be responsible for all aspects of operations, including but not limited to: finance, property management, modernization and resident services. The Authority manages 450 low-rent housing units and administers 698 Section 8 Vouchers. A candidate for Executive Director must have knowledge of federal, public and other housing programs, other affordable housing programs and community development. Proven program and personnel management skills required; leadership ability and a drive to get things done; collaborative attitude with other agencies. Must have a four-year college degree in public administration, social science or other appropriate program and five years experience in public administration, public finance, realty or similar professional employment. A master's degree in an appropriate program may substitute for two years of that experience. The Executive Director reports to a seven-member Board of Commissioners and serves as its Secretary/Treasurer. For consideration, send a letter of interest with current resume and salary requirements to: Chairperson, Housing Authority of Plainfield, 510 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060. Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2000.

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ASSISTANT PROJECT COORDINATOR/ COMPLIANCE

Full time position in wastewater treatment facility. Will assist Project Coordinator to ensure compliance with all affirmative action laws. Must be familiar with state and federal procurement policies and programs affecting employment, affirmative action and compliance. Must have 3-5 years experience in administration, planning or engineering, preferably related to construction. Must be proficient in the set-up and use of a window based computerized data and file system. Excellent salary and fringe benefits package. Send resume with salary history and requirements to: Joint Meeting, 500 South First Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202. No phone calls please.

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Full time position available in wastewater treatment facility. Will assist Project Coordinator and coordinate tasks related to agency's capital construction program. Must have 3-5 years experience in administration, planning or engineering, preferably related to construction. Must be proficient in the set-up and use of a window based computerized data and file system. Duties include reviewing engineering drawings, reviewing change orders and monitoring contractor's work. Excellent salary and fringe benefits package. Send resume with salary history and requirements to: Joint Meeting, 500 South First Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202. No phone calls please.

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For an application kit, please call 1-800-729-6666 and refer to Grants for Applicants (GFA) No. 7100-005, or download the application from the SAMHSA website www.samhsa.gov. The application deadline is June 12, 2000. If you have any questions, please call 301-443-2287.

CSAT

SAMHSA

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN

The Housing Authority of the Town of Morristown is seeking an individual or firm to provide Clerk of the Works services in connection with the following projects:

- NU023-4, Welmore Towers (one 6-story high rise building) - caulking and masonry repair, an need of building exterior. Estimated cost \$100,000.
- NU023-1, Menasha Village (eight low rise buildings) - replacement of roofs, windows, siding, gutters, and storm doors. Estimated cost \$1,000,000.
- NU023-2, Menasha Village (four low rise buildings) - replacement of windows, siding, gutters, and storm doors. Estimated cost \$200,000.

Interested individuals or firms can obtain specifications at the Administrative Offices of the Morristown Housing Authority, 31 Early Street, Morristown, NJ 07960, during regular business hours, or request they be mailed by calling 1-873-536-6343.

Two (2) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on May 24, 2000.

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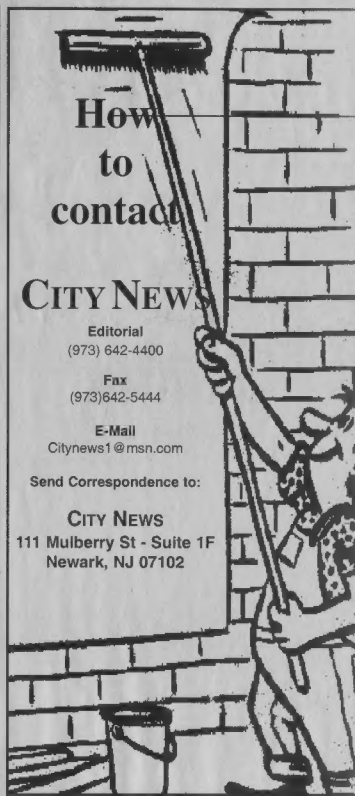
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City Sports

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Ponder This...

By Greg Moore

Thompson's Hoyas hard at work

Watching Allen Iverson mature into a NBA superstar and silence his legion of critics and nayayers in the process has indeed been a wonder to behold.

Called everything from a ball hog to a thug, Iverson has absorbed his fair share of verbal and literary abuse. However, despite his voluminous bad press, you'd be hard pressed to find too many quotes questioning Iverson's heart and desire.

At 6-0, and weighing 165 pounds after a family barbecue, Iverson takes a brutal beating night after night. Nobody works harder to impact a game like Iverson. The Answer is definitely not lazy.

In fact, you could probably count the number of players who come close to emulating Iverson's work ethic on one hand.

As far as a Herculean work ethic is concerned, the first players that come to mind are Patrick Ewing, Alonzo Mourning, Dikembe Mutombo and Jerome Williams. Be honest, did you really expect Ewing or Mourning to develop into the polished offensive players they ultimately became? Did anyone really expect Mutombo to become an NBA all-star several times over? Or earn the NBA's defensive player of the year award three times?

Did anyone expect Jerome Williams to become a valuable starter on an NBA playoff team? For that matter, did anyone expect Don Reid, David Wingate, Othella Harrington or Jahdi White to still be in the league? There is no question that all of the aforementioned players have overachieved.

And most conspicuously, all of these athletes attended (and with the exception of Iverson, have graduated from) Georgetown University where they were all coached by John Thompson. To be sure, Thompson, like Iverson has had his share of critics. His relationship with the media was at best distant, at worst adversarial.

His efforts to protect the privacy of his players and basketball program were not only well documented, but in the eyes of some, was a by product of unhealthy paranoia. However, somewhere under the shroud of secrecy that was G-town basketball, John Thompson did right by his players. In addition to making sure his players graduated, Thompson inculcated an ethic in his players which they continue to exhibit long after departing the leafy Georgetown campus.

An ethic which his former players continue to embrace even AFTER signing mega contracts (e.g. Mourning, 100 million dollar deal, Ewing, 68 million dollar deal, Iverson, 71 million dollar deal, Mutombo, 50 million dollar deal). Despite earning more money than the GNP of some small countries, Thompson's players still play with a degree of tenacity and desperation not normally associated with individuals enjoying the high level of financial security the ultimate tribute to a coach like Thompson. Make no mistake about it.

If Thompson could bottle whatever he was doing during those closed door practices, he'd be richer than all of his former players combined.



Golfing phenom Tiger Woods

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

It is no big secret that Tiger Woods did golf what Arthur Ashe did for tennis — helped popularize in the black community a sport considered for the white elite. That is no longer true in both the world of tennis, with the William sisters, by way of Compton, Cal-iforn-ia, in particular, with seven winning the U.S. Open. And in the world of golf, Woods has proven that him winning the Masters was no fluke.

Not since Ben Hogan, who won four consecutive U.S. tour events in 1953, has another player accomplished this feat, except Woods. Right about now he is dominating the World PGA Tour. Woods' 1999 earnings amounted to \$6,936,825 — not bad for a 23-year-old — quite remarkable.

Since Tiger's rise to fame, it seems that golf has caught on in the black community, although there have always been black golfers who have played on local greens — there are younger kids hailing from the cities that are taking a vested interest in the sport.

A day on the links is a great fund-raiser. And there are many going on that might just bring out the Tiger in you.

Golf League '00 will tee off on Thursday, May 4, at Quail Brook Golf Course. County residents will need to have County ID at any

County course. Thursday's of each week the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce will have the run of the course exclusively. The County Park Commission is limiting all leagues to 32 players. First come, first served. Registration fee is \$50 payable to the chamber. For more information call (908) 782-1118 or (908) 726-7223.

B.F. Johnson First Annual Golf Classic will be held at the Weequahic Park Golf Course on May 15. Local leaders including Mayor Sharpe James and Donald Bradley will attend the outing. B.F. was the pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church until his death in 1992. Anyone interested in this classic can contact the Urban Golf Classic Committee at 64 Wilbur Ave., Newark, or telephone (973) 923-8416.

Inaugural Golf Classic to Benefit E.O. Library will be held May 22 at the East Orange Golf Course in Short Hills. Sponsored by the Board of Trustees of the library, the classic will feature two hole-in-one prizes totaling over \$1 million. A \$10,000 cash prize and \$1 million prize for the first player who sees the respective holes are among the featured events in addition to other valuable merchandise and trophies. Mayor Robert L. Bowser will serve as Honorary Chairman of the charity fund-raiser.

The golf classic features a team scramble format and shotgun start. Other tournament features include longest drive and closest to the pin as well as awards and prizes for team low gross. The tournament fee is \$110 per person and non-golfers can participate by attending the awards luncheon buffet at \$40. Registration deadline is May 15 and late entry fees are \$125. For more information and to register for the event or to become a sponsor telephone (973) 266-5607.

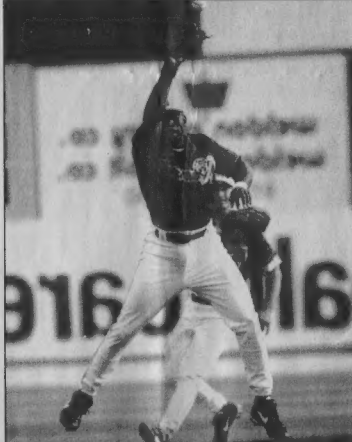
28th Annual Golf Outing to be held June 5, at the Baritan Valley Country Club. Hole-in-One prizes, door prize and \$1,000 in golf prizes. Registration for golf includes your greens fee, cart, locker use, buffet, lunch, beverages, cocktails and buffet and door prize entry. Players must wear soft spike shoes. For additional information telephone (908) 725-1552.

PWC Two-Day Golf Outing Professional Course in Construction (PWC) will sponsor a outing on Sunday July 16-17 to play Grossinger and Concord's Monster or International Golf Course. Rate includes deluxe room (double occupancy) at The Raleigh Hotel, South Fallsburg, NY, meals, cocktail party, two-day greens fee, golf cart, gratuities and tax. Golf package: \$300. R&R package: \$185. Add \$60 for single room. For reservations and information telephone (212) 687-0610.

Thursday is Atlantic League baseball night on Cablevision

BETHPAGE, NY — Professional local baseball telecasts will debut on Cablevision Systems across the tri-state area on May 4 with a 21-week schedule of Atlantic League baseball games on Thursday nights. The games will run on channel 5 in Newark and South Orange, starting with the pregame show at 7 p.m. The cablecasts, which runs through September 21, will feature seven Atlantic League teams including the Long Island (NY) Ducks, Newark (NJ) Bears, Somerset (NJ) Patriots, Atlantic City (NJ) Surf, Nashua (NH) pride, Bridgeport (CT) Bluefish and Lehigh Valley (PA) Black Diamonds. Cablevision Sports will produce these telecasts as well as six Atlantic League games that will run on Metro starting with Long Island against Newark on June 22.

Cablevision Schedule
May 4 Long Island vs. Newark
May 11 Newark vs. Long Island
May 18 Newark vs. Bridgeport
May 25 Bridgeport vs. Newark
June 1 Bridgeport vs. Somerset
June 8 Atlantic City vs. Long Island
June 15 Somerset vs.



Newark Bears second baseman Sharnol Adrians. The Bears belong to The Atlantic League.

Photo courtesy of Newark Bears

Bridgeport.
June 22 Long Island vs. Newark.
June 29 Somerset vs. Newark.
July 6 Lehigh Valley vs. Somerset.
July 13 All Star at Somerset.
July 20 Bridgeport vs. Long Island.
August 3 Long Island vs. Somerset.
August 10 Newark vs. Bridgeport.
August 17 Newark vs. Somerset.
August 24 Somerset vs. Newark.
August 31 Atlantic City vs. Long Island.
September 7 Somerset vs. Long Island.
September 14 Atlantic City vs. Somerset.
September 21 Long Island vs. Bridgeport.

Sports Shorts



The Garden State High School and College and Men's unlimited Sunday Double Header Wood Golf League now in its second season is registering full teams and individual players for its summer league, which starts May 25. All interested teams will get free entry into two of our nationally advertised New Jersey Wood Bat Tournaments. The league also includes a League all-star showcase game scheduled to be played in the St. Louis Cardinals' "Single A" professional stadium Skylands Park. Over 300 professional scouts will be notified, provided access to the team schedules and invited to attend the showcase game. For more information please contact by email at gashb2000@aol.com or call John at (732) 750-5506.

Introductory Gymnastics Course The Monmouth County Park System invites youngsters ages 6-10 to "Introduction to Gymnastics" on Saturday, May 6-27 at the Shrewsbury Gymnastics School on Broad St. in Shrewsbury. Parents will be notified in advance with the exact class time. Students will be introduced to basic gymnastic events and the trampolines. The fee for the course is \$34, and registration is required. For more information or to register, call the Park System (732) 642-4000.

Monmouth Park System Sponsor Trip to Yankees vs. Orioles Game On Saturday, May 6, the Monmouth County Park System is sponsoring a bus trip to the Yankees vs. Orioles game at Yankee Stadium. The bus will leave at 10:15 a.m. from Thompson Park, Newman Springs Road, Lincoln. The cost of the trip is \$45 per person, which includes ticket and round-trip transportation. Free registration is required. For additional information call the Park System (732) 842-4000.

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